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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam, King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet 18 Aug *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Discussion of Lebanon Planned *[MENA]* 1
ACC Ministerial Council Meeting Postponed *[MENA]* 1
ACC Housing Ministers Meet in Cairo 12 Aug *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Unified Leadership Issues Call No 44 *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 2
PFLP-GC's Jibril on Soviet Emigration Policy *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PLO's Al-Hurani Criticizes U.S. Over Lebanon *[MENA]* 4

OPEC Affairs

'Oil Official' Cited on Trends in Prices, Output *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Aug]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Refuses To Meet Israeli Group *[AL-WAFD 16 Aug]* 5
AL-SHA'B Views Abu-Talib's Washington Talks *[15 Aug]* 5
Mubarak Discusses Economy, Lebanon, Africa *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Official Notes Positive Points in IMF Talks *[MENA]* 6
Dailies View Lebanese Issue, Syria's 'Obstinacy' *[MENA]* 6

Sudan

'Text' of John Garang's Address, Part I *[Radio SPLA]* 7
Official on Preparatory Talks With SPLM *[SUNA]* 14
Talks With Garang Group Previewed *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Delegation To Leave 18 Aug *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Foreign Minister Condoles Leland's Death *[SUNA]* 15
Currency Exchange Deadline Extended to 31 Aug *[SUNA]* 15
Minister of Culture Announces 2 New Publications *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Editors, Papers Described *[AFP]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government To Buy Jet Fighters From U.S. Company *[ARAB TIMES 16 Aug]* 17

PDRY

Council of Ministers Discusses Lebanon, Libya *[Aden Radio]* 17

IRAQ

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on Visit, Met by 'Aziz *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Confers With Foreign Minister *[INA]* 18

President Receives Message From PDRY's Al-'Attas *[INA]* 18
Foreign Ministry Official Meets Cambodia's Long *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Profits of Iraqi-Jordanian Company Detailed *[INA]* 18
'Abd-al-Nasir Statue To Be Erected in Baghdad *[INA]* 18

ISRAEL

Pazner Denies U.S. Newspaper Report *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Shamir on Ties With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Bush, Baker 'Split' on Policy *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Aug]* 19
Rabin: World's Silence 'Epitome of Hypocrisy' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Rabin Cited Further *[Jerusalem TV]* 20
Katyusha Rockets Fired in Galilee; No Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Shamir Cited on Arab States' Election Delegation *[HA'ARETZ 18 Aug]* 21
Paper Welcomes Rise in Jordanian Dinar's Value *[AL-SHA'B 16 Aug]* 21
250 Kg of 'Superior-Quality' Heroin Uncovered *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
2 Children Die of Meningococcemia in Nahariyya *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Gaza Strip Entry Permits Go Into Effect 18 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
New System Tested 17 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Soldiers in Nabulus Shot At; Suspects Detained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22

JORDAN

TIMES Urges Arab Agreement on Lebanon Moves *[JORDAN TIMES 17-18 Aug]* 23
Foreign Ministry Employees Pensioned Off *[AL-RA'Y 18 Aug]* 23
SAWT AL-SHA'B Lists Potential Candidates *[13 Aug]* 23
Interior Minister Chairs Meeting on Elections *[Amman Radio]* 25
Problems Facing Medicine Importers Viewed *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 14 Aug]* 25

LEBANON

17 Aug Security Developments Updated *[VOL]* 26
More on Overnight Shelling *[RFL]* 26
Shells Hit Maritime Target *[Voice of National Resistance]* 26
2 Amal Personnel Wounded *[VOM]* 26
Lebanese-Syrian Clashes Reported 18 Aug *[RFL]* 26
Israeli Flights Reported *[RFL]* 27
10,000 Syrian Troops Said Mobilized *[VOL]* 27
French Envoy Arrives in Beirut; Meets Al-Huss *[VOL]* 27
Al-Huss on Naval Presence *[Voice of National Resistance]* 27
'Awn Receives Envoy *[VOL]* 27
'Awn Requests UN To Send Observers *[VOL]* 27

SYRIA

Lebanese, Palestinian Figures at Meeting Named *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 28
Press Criticizes 'Awn's Cease-Fire Response *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Press Reiterates State's Position on Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 29
Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Interviewed *[AL-BA'TH 1 Aug]* 29

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Envoy to India Renews Threat To Bomb Pakistan *[AFP]* 31
Protest Handed to Pakistani Charge 17 Aug *[BAKHTAR]* 31
French Aid Worker, Rebels Killed in Ambush *[AFP]* 31
TIMES Cited on U.S. Envoy's 'Gigantic Task' *[BAKHTAR]* 32
Kabul Garrison Warns Against New Rocket *[BAKHTAR]* 32
BAKHTAR Details Recent Military Operations 32
Fighting in Provinces, Kabul *[BAKHTAR]* 33

Mujahidin Kabul Regional Commander Interviewed
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Aug] 33
Mojadeddi: Hekmatyar Obstructs Investigations *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Mujahidin Spokesman on Takhar Incident, USSR *[Vienna KURIER 17 Aug]* 34

Bangladesh

OBSERVER Details Attempt on Hasina's Life *[12 Aug]* 34
Iranian Envoy Presents Credentials to Ershad *[IRNA]* 35

India

Opposition Leader Accused of Links With U.S. *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Parliament Debates Singh's 'Links' *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Gandhi: No Postponement of Lok Sabha Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Srinagar Gunfire on Ziaul Haq's Death Anniversary *[AFP]* 36
'Maoists Guerrillas' Free Kidnapped Official *[AFP]* 36
Sikhs Suspected in Bus Bombing; 4 Killed *[AFP]* 36
6 Terrorists Killed in Punjab Encounters *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Events in Assam's Violence-Hit Areas Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Communist Party Leader Rules Out Opposition Unity *[PATRIOT 6 Aug]* 37

Iran

Ayatollah Yazdi Leads Tehran Friday Prayers *[IRNA]* 38
Speaks on Judiciary, Lebanon *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Hostages *[Tehran TV]* 39
Yaqub Khan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discuss Hostages *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
Lebanese Leader Sha'ban Cited on UNSC Decision *[Tehran International]* 40
Majlis Deputy Says Bush 'Made' 'Mistake' *[IRNA]* 41
Khomeyni Threatens To 'Kick' U.S. Out of Mideast *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Iranian Toilers Radio Views Leadership Split *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 41
IAEA Secretary General on Nuclear Energy *[Tehran TV]* 42

Pakistan

Spokesman on Yaqub Khan's Syria Visit, Hostages *[Islamabad Radio]* 45
Bhutto Cancels Travel Due to 'Preoccupations' *[AFP]* 45
Ziaul Haq's 1st Death Anniversary Observed 17 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
'Tens of Thousands' Pay Homage *[AFP]* 46
Details on Memorial Ceremony *[AFP]* 46

Sri Lanka

24 IPKF Members Killed in LTTE Attack *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Colombo Court Orders Arrest of EPRLF Leader *[AFP]* 48

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam, King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet 18 Aug

JN1808061889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an informed source in Amman that a three-way summit among King Husayn of Jordan, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, and President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine will be held in the Iraqi capital today. The source did not rule out the likelihood of a four-way summit if Egyptian President Husni Mubarak joins.

The talks will cover the latest developments on the Arab scene, especially the Lebanese crisis, which is threatening the Middle East with Balkanization and disintegration, according to the same source. King Husayn is expected to leave for Baghdad today. 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources in Amman have said that 'Arafat will visit Jordan after the Baghdad meeting. He will hold talks with Jordanian officials and open the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund in the Jordanian capital.

Discussion of Lebanon Planned

NC1808120889 Cairo MENA in English 1155 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 18 (MENA)—Iraq, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization will launch a wide scale campaign for dealing with the situation in Lebanon and putting an end to the tragedy of its people, ambassador of the state of Palestine here 'Azzam al-Ahmad said today. In an interview with MENA correspondent here, the ambassador said that this move will take place following the Baghdad tripartite summit between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian head of state Yasir 'Arafat.

He pointed out that the deteriorating situation in Lebanon threatens not only Lebanon but also the entire Arab world.

In the light of the declaration of the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with the Lebanese crisis that its efforts had reached a deadlock, the entire Arab nation should face up to its responsibility regarding the situation in Lebanon for safeguarding the territorial integrity of that country, the Palestinian ambassador said. He added that the situation in Lebanon reflects negatively on the Palestinian cause and the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

ACC Ministerial Council Meeting Postponed

NC1708110189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (MENA)—The MENA correspondent in Baghdad learned from informed sources today that the meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] Ministerial Council, which is composed of the prime ministers of the member countries, has been postponed until a date to be announced later. The meeting was scheduled to be held next Tuesday.

The correspondent has also learned that the council's agenda, which focuses on economic and trade issues, has been prepared. The prime ministers will adopt recommendations on these issues, which they will submit to the leaders of the ACC states during their summit meeting in Sanaa in September.

ACC Housing Ministers Meet in Cairo 12 Aug

NC1208160589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities, has stressed the need to coordinate the efforts of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries in the areas of housing, construction, new urban communities, and production of building material. He said this in a speech to the opening session of the first conference of the ACC housing ministers, which is currently being held in Cairo. Al-Kafrawi said that the conference is being held to further those objectives in which every nationalist Arab believes. The meeting, he added, is one of the many steps being undertaken in ACC countries with the aim of achieving integration in all areas.

Tahir Hassun, Iraqi minister of housing and reconstruction, spoke at the same session, saying that he hopes the meeting will help promote ACC objectives, which are an expression of the aspirations of the four ACC nations, by authorizing practical measures for cooperation in housing and construction. Hassun noted that the building sector is a leading economic activity in all the ACC countries and one that has links with all other economic sectors, which makes it even more vital.

Speaking at the same meeting, Shafiq al-Zawayidah, Jordanian minister of public works and housing, expressed the hope that the conference will be a first step toward exploring the resources and capabilities of the ACC countries in a crucial sector, which affects many other sectors in the economy and can thus greatly help increase employment both for skilled and unskilled labor.

Muhsin al-Hawari, Yemeni minister of municipalities and housing, spoke afterward, emphasizing the need to apply scientific methods of planning and programming both in bolstering cooperation among ACC countries and in coordinating with other Arab groupings.

The ministers are expected to form committees of experts to examine the working papers and the projects submitted by the four delegations.

Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Unified Leadership Issues Call No 44

JN1708201889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Call No 44 of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah (Uprising) on 15 August in "occupied Jerusalem"—"salutation call" for the Fatah fifth congress]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice shall rise above the voice of the intifadah [uprising]. No voice shall rise above the voice of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO. Salutation call for the Fatah congress. Call No 44.

O masses of our heroic people. You are continuing your valiant intifadah in its 21st month and carrying its torch, affirming to the entire world that no force, regardless of its name or shape, is capable of interrupting your sacred advance toward victory. You have triumphed in the battle of the challenge of who tires first and proved that the intifadah has endless intrinsic power—the power of faith in victory, unyielding morale, and human dignity; the invincible power of a people seeking a free and dignified life. You have triumphed in the battles of confrontation against the sophisticated Zionist machine of repression. Without the least doubt, you will triumph in the political battle currently waged under the title of the spiteful election plan, which is adopted by the United States and has become its outlet to evade the duty of explicitly recognizing our people's right to self-determination, repatriation, and establishment of our independent state on an equal footing with the rest of the world's peoples.

This plan coincides with the policy of extending administrative repression for 1 year and the policy of starving and twisting the arm of our people through the use of magnetic cards in Gaza and afterward in the West Bank. The enemy declared that as of 18 August it will begin to implement the policy of monitoring workers seeking to gain a living and controlling their movement to make some starve and to dismember the ranks of our one people. This is a policy of starving the entire people, although it took the form of denying some the right to work and gain a living. This is a futile policy seeking the illusion of separating our people from the popular committees and Gaza from the West Bank, ignoring that the intifadah would not have continued had it not been supported by the people with all their sects, classes, and segments and their absolute support for it with their noble souls, precious blood, and all forms of deprivation, suffering, and distress.

Our heroic people in Gaza are waging this battle in defense of the people, wherever they are located. If this policy succeeds in Gaza, it will quickly be implemented in the West Bank. Our valiant workers in the Palestinian bank will not allow the policy of divide and conquer to succeed and devour the people little by little. Let us all rise against the policy of magnetic cards and support the absolute right of all workers, wherever they are located, to move and work freely. Workers from the West Bank must not occupy the jobs of their brother Gazan workers as long as they are on strike.

It is the battle of gaining a living. It is the battle of confrontation and steadfastness until the hateful occupation has been removed from our beloved land. The Gaza workers will not be alone against the occupationists' racist practices.

O heroic masses, we are addressing greetings of pride on your behalf to the brothers in the Fatah Movement. We congratulate ourselves on the great achievements realized by the conferees.

O masses of our gigantic people, in the political battle, the enemy seeks to abort the intifadah through propagating the conspiratorial plan based on the illusion of the possibility of creating an alternative leadership to our people's historic leadership represented by the PLO. Therefore, it is holding meetings with those chosen by it to talk about the election plan to tell the world and the United States in particular: Do not rush to recognize and deal with the PLO; an emasculated alternative leadership is in our possession. Thus, the Unified National Leadership denounces, condemns, and warns those who contribute to these meetings without prior permission. It announces its firm nationalist decision of rejecting meetings with any official or nonofficial Israeli party that does not support a comprehensive unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories, our right to self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state.

Militant masses of our people, our struggle against this mean enemy that knows no language other than that of force will be sustained thanks to your resolve and determination to fight until victory. Pursue and continue the work toward destroying the machines of the Civil Administration and steadfastly confront the agent persons in this administration. Further defy the agents who are now being organized by the enemy into armed militias that mount attacks against respected nationalists among our people.

Our valiant heroes, you are urged to use rocks and knives. Let us set the ground afire under the feet of the occupation troops as well as its border police, settlers, and agents because force and inflicting losses is the only language our enemy understands.

Steadfast masses of our people, the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah sees radicalization and intensification of the intifadah as the only route for its continuation until its objectives are realized. Accordingly, it calls for the following lines of action to be followed:

—The intifadah is the proper vehicle for righting the course of the national establishments both inside and outside [the occupied territory] and consolidating their structure so they be compatible with the intifadah and in harmony with its requirements.

—The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah urges the PLO to step up its support for our steadfast people and to rationalize this support to favor the poor who make up the backbone and fuel of the intifadah.

—The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah calls for increased social solidarity and launching solidarity funds in neighborhoods, rationalizing consumption, and working out a solution for the rent problem in light of the dinar's devaluation by mutual understanding between tenants and landlords.

—The Unified National Leadership appraises the unified militant initiatives that mark the solid foundation of national unity and calls for internal differences to be smoothed over in the interest of the common struggle against the enemy. It further calls for standardizing the national slogans and that they be signed under the Unified National Leadership without negating the private slogans.

—The Unified National Leadership urges vigilance and alertness to ingenuous statements promoted by the Zionist intelligence in the Palestinian street and then circulated by Israeli media, as happend in a recent statement that charged that Palestinian militants were embezzling funds. Other examples include leveling charges against Palestinian militants and writing fake slogans that only serve the Zionist enemy and its agent collaborators, who have formed an army of their own to attack respectable people.

—The Unified Leadership declares that unity within each faction is a necessity that must be adhered to and that there should not be any subdivisions within any faction. It further calls for the need to maintain cohesion and to work to resolve any problems through the established channels and the higher echelons. The Unified National Leadership warns our Palestinian people against agents and fifth columnists and carriers of tendentious rumors. We call on the masses to show caution and alertness.

—The Unified National Leadership calls on inmates of detention centers, especially the Megiddo facility, to close ranks and abide by decisions of commitees formed inside the prison to reflect the proportional representation of the prisoners, making sure that all forces are represented. The Unified National Leadership appeals to our masses not to liquidate any agent without a central decision by the higher command. Nor should any suspected agent be executed short of a national consensus on that decision or before he is warned beforehand and given a chance to repent.

—The Unified National Leadership calls on school students to abide by the days of comprehensive strikes to maintain their significance, provided that teachers and students manage to find suitable formulas to make up for classes missed.

—The Unified National Leadership urges the establishment of contacts with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement for the sake of national unity and to tackle all the issues that will contribute to achieving the objectives of the intifadah.

—The Unified National Leadership calls on its masses to turn the days of strikes into days to escalate struggle and to carry out the various national activities.

O our brave masses, the Unified National Leadership urges you to carry out the following militant activities:

—Wednesday, 16 August, shall be a day for a comprehensive strike on the annual anniversary of the Ansar-3 massacre, in solidarity with the detainees, and as a call to close up the annihilation prisons.

—From 18 to 25 August, a strike for the Palestinian bank's [West Bank] workers in the Zionist institutions in solidarity with the Gaza workers, to reject the magnetic cards, and to consider that taking the posts of the workers on strike treason against the homeland.

—21 August shall be a day for a comprehensive strike on the anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa mosque.

—28 August shall be a day for information, during which press seminars and conferences shall be held to expose the occupation's policy and the consequences of its repressive measures.

—1 September shall be a day to make up for the strike on 21 August, a day for popular education, to make up for classes missed, and to resist the policy of stultification.

—2 September shall be a day for the escalation of struggle, during which stones shall be thrown at enemy troops, settlers, and agents, and for the escalation of national activities against the occupation forces.

Proceed forward. Long live the giant intifadah of our people! Long live the giant intifadah of our people! Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs! Let us remain together until the attainment of the great victory.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the state of Palestine

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Soviet Emigration Policy

JN1708163289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], today accused Moscow of preventing the emigration of Soviet Muslims who wish to join the Palestinian resistance to fight Israel, as he put it. Jibril criticized the reduction of restrictions on Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and said that the USSR should either open the door for the emigration of Jews and Muslims alike or shut it in the face of both sides.

PLO's Al-Hurani Criticizes U.S. Over Lebanon

NC1808115789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, 18 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani has accused Israel and the United States of igniting the situation in Lebanon to divert attention from the intifadah [uprising] and the Middle East crisis. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said that Syria is involved in this deal that serves the U.S.-Israeli viewpoint.

It should be recalled that the UN Security Council issued a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Lebanon and stressing the importance of the Arab tripartite committee's resumption of its efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

OPEC Affairs

'Oil Official' Cited on Trends in Prices, Output

PM1808095689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 89 p 1

[Muhammad al-Tunsi report: "Senior OPEC Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: New Spirit Promising Positive Agreement at Upcoming Geneva Meeting"]

[Excerpt] London, Vienna, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior oil official in OPEC circles has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that consultations are being conducted to close ranks by reducing the level of disputes among member states at the OPEC strategy and follow-up ministers' meeting to be held in Geneva on 22 September.

The official expected a new spirit and a good opportunity for discussion, amid reports that OPEC faces challenges that could cause a slump in prices. He also expected that discipline, albeit relative, will be diplayed by member states that have exceeded the quotas decided for them—which will boost prices and improve market performance in OPEC's favor. But the official emphasized that whatever the future challenges, prices will not fall from their present level. "The assumption is that the summer season is about to end, and preparations for the next quarter have begun, which will reflect on the level of market demand, because winter is approaching."

On the possibility of the OPEC production ceiling being raised from the present level of 19.5 million barrels a day, the oil official said that at present the ceiling is already higher than the figure decided, since production has now reached 21.8 million barrels a day. And there is a possibility of agreeing to increase the organization's production ceiling by nearly 1 million. Apart from that, the situation will be determined by market prices. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Refuses To Meet Israeli Group

JN1708195289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
16 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry the day before yesterday refused to receive a three-member Israeli delegation to discuss special arrangements to guarantee safety of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Elat port. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry informed the Israeli Embassy in Cairo of its desire to postpone the meeting because the time is not now ripe to hold talks between the two sides. The Israeli delegation then left Tabah for Israel.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo pointed out that the recent Israeli practices in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories have contributed to further escalating tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

AL-WAFD has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry refused to set another date for the meeting.

Egypt also refused to to hold a similar meeting last June following the Egyptian Navy firing at an Israeli fishing boat that violated Egypt's territorial waters south of Jazirat Fir'awn in the Gulf of Aqaba. The incident led to the death of the boat's skipper. Egypt then stressed to Israel the need for its boats to respect Egypt's sovereignty over its territorial waters.

AL-WAFD also learned that during their meeting in Cairo last Thursday, President Husni Mubarak informed Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir of Egypt's extreme dissatisfaction with the Israeli practices in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories. President Mubarak stressed to the Israeli ambassador that the Israeli practices are behind the escalation of acts of violence in the region and that they threaten the future of peace. President Mubarak also asked the Israeli ambassador to convey to his government the need to give further explanation of the Israeli elections plan in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-SHA'B Views Abu-Talib's Washington Talks

JN1708143489 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
15 Aug 89 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad Nuwwar and 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib's talks in Washington dealt with many important issues, headed by military expenditure. In this regard, Egypt affirmed that it is no longer possible to talk about new cuts in military expenditure after military expenditure was curtailed more than once over the past years. Abu-Talib requested that military aid be increased by approximately $600 million.

Meanwhile, Abu-Talib affirmed that Cairo is monitoring with interest the growing naval forces of neighboring countries. In this regard, reports refer to increased Israeli-FRG cooperation in the field of military industrialization to build ships and submarines. It has been confirmed in this regard that the Germans are extending aid to Israel amounting to approximately 60 percent of the joint ventures.

Therefore, this issue enjoyed great interest during the Egyptian minister's talks in Washington. This required that the naval forces chief travel to U.S. naval bases to get acquainted with the most sophisticated weapons introduced into the military arsenal. Egypt asked Washington to take part in modernizing the Egyptian navai forces.

The "Bright Star" exercises were an important topic in the discussions. It was agreed to carry out the exercises, which have been postponed more than once, in November.

Gen Abu-Talib affirmed that Egypt did not cancel plans to produce the U.S. M-1 tank and urged Washington to begin to implement the agreed upon requirements in this regard.

Major differences were noticed during Abu-Talib's talks with the U.S. national security adviser regarding the two sides' views on a number of issues. Cairo proposed an initiative to ban the proliferation of mass destruction weapons. The initiative includes the following points:

1. This issue should be discussed from all its angles and in view of its relationship with the region's main issue, which is the Palestine question, provided that this problem has been defused after the setbacks suffered by the peace efforts in the region and because of the Israeli intransigence.

2. All states in the area should abide by a regional agreement under an international umbrella to ban the proliferation in the region of missiles with a range of 300-450 km. All states in the area should also allow a neutral committee to hold inspections to confirm the parties' abidance by the agreement.

3. This agreement should be followed by a similar regional agreement to ban the production of nuclear and chemical weapons in the region. This is in view of the growing indications about Israel's acquisition of nuclear weapons, which has been one of the major motives behind other regional powers' quest to acquire medium-range missiles. Any reference to the problem of missiles while ignoring the original problem, which is Israel's nuclear capability, is considered an evasion of the main problem.

Mubarak Discusses Economy, Lebanon, Africa
NC1708165789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that every effort by every citizen in any sector of production benefits the entire population. Speaking to journalists following an expanded meeting with leading industrialists, Mubarak said: We do not seek to promote the interests of one political party. We seek to serve all citizens regardless of whether they support the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, the National Democratic Party, or the Wafd Party, and regardless of their other affiliations. We hope to serve all Egyptians and improve living conditions in the country.

Mubarak said: I work for all Egyptians and not for one section of the population. I believe the ordinary citizen can discern the improvement in the agricultural sector since 1983. In 1983, the president said, agricultural production was insufficient. Now, despite the population increase, agricultural products are available, though at higher prices, Mubarak added, explaining that the higher prices are due to increased labor costs and other inputs.

Mubarak also noted the improvement in industry. There has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of products in both the public and private sectors. Mubarak said that he has equal respect for both the public and private sectors. He noted some companies are failing in both sectors, adding that the public sector needs to reform its management. The president said there are no plans to sell the giant public sector companies, which are needed to maintain a measure of social balance in the country. However, the president said there is no reason why small firms which cannot be reorganized should not be sold. The president called on the private sector to step in and reorganize such firms.

The president said the services provided by the public sector enhance the performance of the private sector. He called on officials to investigate the reasons for the losses incurred by certain public sector units and to reform their management. The president said he is following up progress in all production sectors in Egypt.

The president was asked if he regards the current economic course and the focus on exports as promising. President Mubarak said: The outlook is good for exports. We have all the requirements of production and are constantly seeking to identify and remove any obstacles to growth in that sector. The president noted that he always tours production sites with the aim of eliminating obstacles facing exports.

Asked about the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, the president noted that the recent Arab summit has spawned a tripartite committee to tackle this crisis. This committee, the president added, encountered difficulties and has issued a report. I think that the entire world is urging that committee to resume its efforts. The crisis in Lebanon is grueling and it is unfortunate that the main characters in this tragedy—besides Israel—are Arab, the president said.

Asked about Egypt's African role and his efforts to resolve African problems, Mubarak noted that African problems are numerous, stating that he will exert his utmost to resolve these problems, in collaboration with African brothers. Mubarak noted that Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU will boost Egypt's international standing, a matter which will benefit Egypt and its people.

Official Notes Positive Points in IMF Talks
NC1708152289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, stressed today that there are a number of positive points in the current talks between the Egyptian Government and the IMF, particularly with regard to the steps to unify the exchange rates and the steps to tackle the deficit in the state's public budget.

In a statement made today, Dr Makramallah said that talks are continuing between officials from the Egyptian Government and IMF officials to narrow the gap between them on the points on which the two sides differ, such as the interest rate on deposits, because the government is trying not to let any increase in the interest rate affect the increase in investments.

The Egyptian official added that no date has been set yet for the IMF to sign the letter of intent from the Egyptian Government which includes the measures to reform the Egyptian economy during the coming stage. He said that as soon as the letter is signed, Egypt will be able to reschedule parts of its debts to the creditor country members of the Paris Club and which are due for settlement between July 1989 and the end of 1990.

Dailies View Lebanese Issue, Syria's 'Obstinacy'
NC1808093289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR call on the Arab world to use all its weight to extricate Lebanon from its crisis. They stressed that pan-Arab responsibility requires that all Arab countries without exception take a long pause as a necessary prelude to pooling all resources to impose a fair solution on Lebanon. The papers said that these facts must not cause despair and frustration among those parties seeking to save Lebanon from its catastrophe.

AL-AKHBAR says it should be admitted that the objectives behind the start of the tragedy of the civil war in Lebanon have not been achieved in the way those who

engineered this 14-year-old tragedy had sought. The paper said the parties that wished to subjugate this small country and dominate and influence it will not agree to end this war before their purposes, or at least most of them, are achieved. It says the Security Council's resolution for an immediate cease-fire among the various parties will have no better chance than the resolutions passed by the Arab summit meetings or reached by the Arab mediation committee, as all these resolutions were constantly violated.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that greater motivation is needed for further efforts and for all means of persuasion and moral and material pressure on the conflicting parties in Lebanon that refuse to listen to the voice of peace.

Under the headline "Lebanon's Ordeal and Arab Responsibility," AL-AHRAM says that accepting the continuation of this miserable situation in Lebanon is not only a disaster for this Arab country but is also a pan-Arab catastrophe threatening the entire Arab future. The paper asks why we do not think in a diffrent way and swiftly before it is too late and before Lebanon is lost, now that the Arab tripartite committee's efforts have reached a deadlock.

AL-AHRAM states that Lebanon's loss would pose a serious threat to the Palestinian cause because resolving the Palestinian people's problem can only be achieved after Lebanon is extricated from its ordeal and the legitimate government enabled to exercise all rights to sovereignty throughout Lebanon.

AL-AHRAM appealed to the Arab world to put all its weight behind implementing the text of the Arab tripartite committee statement, that is, to enable the Lebanese state to extend its authority throughout Lebanon by its own force, represented primarily by the internal security forces. The paper pointed out that in the absence of the legitimate Lebanese authority, any talk about a solution is a sort of illusion.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM expresses the conviction that through a pan-Arab sense, Syria can realize the dangers of obstinacy and the signs of the future that do not serve the Arab struggle if the situation in Lebanon remains as it is.

Sudan

'Text' of John Garang's Address, Part I

EA1508070089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Part I of address by Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leader John Garang; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, fellow citizens, I greet you in the name of the glorious Sudanese revolution, in the name of a new Sudan; a united, democratic Sudan of peace, justice, equality, and progress; a new Sudan with a new personality, a new identity, a prosperous, confident, proud, and great new Sudan.

As you all know, our national capital, Khartoum, witnessed on 30th of June a change in government. The elected government of Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was ousted by a coup d'etat led by a group of Army officers who wanted to bring to an end political parties and to establish a military dictatorship that they say is for national salvation.

Since then, the junta has followed up on its work to establish authoritarian rule. They have banned all political parties, dissolved all trade unions, shut down all nonmilitary press, suspended the Constitution, imposed martial law, and vested all legislative, executive, and judicial powers in one man, the country's president, Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir.

No doubt you have been wondering about and waiting for the position of the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] on this momentous development. I wish here to assure the people that your movement has been following the situation very closely, and that we have conducted a very careful and sober analysis in order to arrive at conclusions and actions that will safeguard the interest of the suffering Sudanese, and that will not compromise their hard-won democratic achievements.

In arriving at the position that I am announcing today, I wish to assure you that we were fully conscious of the vital responsibility laid on us by history. Today, the SPLM-SPLA is the only democratic force in the country that the junta has no power to ban, dissolve, or arrest its leaders.

On the other hand, the SPLM-SPLA has the power to shorten or lengthen the days of the junta. This is indisputable. In using this power, the movement has to exercise the utmost political maturity, guided by the supreme interests of our people. This is the reason for our delay in announcing our position.

During the past 40 days, the movement has conducted wide contacts with broad sectors of the Sudanese community. Beginning with the movement itself, all SPLA commands and mass organizations have made their views known to the military. We have been in contact with the banned political parties, with the dissolved trade unions, with various opinion groups within the Sudanese Army, with the Sudanese working or living abroad in various countries, and we have listed and recorded all the statements of the junta since they came to power.

I am aware that our delay in announcing our position was misunderstood or distorted and that many rumors have been floated in Khartoum. Various international news media have made statements, attributing them to

me or to some spokesman of the movement. It was even reported that I had a telephone conversation with President 'Umar al-Bashir, which is, of course, not true. It has been suggested, for example, that the movement delayed in announcing its position because we had reached a secret agreement with the junta. This is, of course, completely false, without any foundation. This is of course completely false and without any foundation. [sentence repeated as heard] I want to assure the Sudanese people that all these rumors were unfounded and created by opportunists. They were either playing wishful thinking or deliberate disinformation.

The position we announce today is our first statement since the coup, and we are convinced that this position is the general consensus of the Sudanese people, inside and outside of Sudan and in their political organizations, including the Army.

Fellow citizens, the (?scene) in Khartoum takes place in the midst of a deep economic and political crisis in the country. The economy is in ruins, with a budget registering the highest deficit in history. Hyper-inflation has reached alarming proportions. War is razing the country all over, and foreign troops are active in some parts of our country. The war has drained our human and material resources.

You cannot have a healthy economy when more than 20,000,000 Sudanese pounds a day are devoured by the war-machine. You cannot have economic stability when the natural resources are unexploited because of the war. You cannot build Islamic countries like the Sudan with a begging bowl in hand.

Hence, the real solution of Sudan's problems should take up as a starting point the issues that have led to the advent of war, so that a lasting peace is achieved in our country.

Compatriots, the commitment of the SPLM-SPLA to peace is unequivocal and strategic. The peace we aspire for is not just any peace, but peace with justice and honor. The basis for a permanent peace was set out in the Koka Dam declaration of March 1986. This was the will of all Sudanese political forces, including the SPLM-SPLA. The only absentees at Koka Dam were the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and the National Islamic Front.

The principles laid down in Koka Dam were further developed and strengthened in the Sudanese initiative of 15th November 1988 that was worked out and signed by the SPLM-SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party, at which point the DUP entered the peace process. Thus, only the National Islamic Front had never supported peace.

The DUP-SPLA peace agreement won a deep popular support in the country and served as a rallying point for all the peace-loving forces in our country. This fact is reflected by that almost all the political parties and trade unions supported the Sudanese peace initiative. Peace would have prevailed in Sudan on 31st December 1988 were it not that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the National Islamic Front rejected the November agreement and stood firmly against it.

You will recall that on 21st December 1988, Al-Sadiq and the National Islamic Front maneuvered the Constituent Assembly and forced it to pass a resolution formally rejecting the agreement and insisted on the imposition of the divisive Islamic laws.

This was a big blow to the peace process, but it was not the end of the story. The momentum of the peace– of the peace march—which was terminated and (?gained) wide acceptance of the Sudanese society, could hardly be halted by [words indistinct].

The peace-loving forces, including the SPLM-SPLA continued to intensify their struggle for peace on all fronts until conditions were created that made Al-Sadiq swallow his pride, and he was forced in March this year to endorse the November peace agreement.

Compatriots, as soon as the new government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi endorsed the November agreement [1988, with the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP] meetings started with the movement in April, and we declared a cease-fire on 1 May as a gesture of good-will to enable the government to implement the provisions of the agreement.

The cease-fire, which was initially for 1 month, was extended twice until it became 2 months in all. Within that period, a meeting was held between the SPLM-SPLA and a government delegation on 10 June to review the implementation of the peace agreement. That meeting went a long way in narrowing the gap of differences, and the two sides agreed to meet again on 4 July 1989 to iron out the remaining points of difference on the implementation of the November peace agreement.

Furthermore, a date was fixed—18 September—for the convening of the National Constitutional Conference that would usher the Sudan into just and lasting peace.

Fellow citizens, as I have just outlined, the peace process had reached an advanced stage when the 15 Army officers seized power on 30 June, 4 days before the scheduled meeting of the two sides to the conflict.

The obvious question that arises is the following: Is the coup d'etat motivated by the interest of bringing about peace more speedily to the country, and if the answer is in the affirmative, what then is the position of the movement on the (?ongoing) peace process, the wheels of which it has set rolling? This is the crux of the matter that any government in Khartoum must address if it has to be taken seriously. (?That) [word indistinct] regime in Khartoum (?it's all up to this man).

In order to answer this question objectively and comprehensively. I would like to examine and share with you the position of the junta on (?nine key) questions. The first question is: What is the junta's perception of the problem of war, which they say they have come to solve? And related to this: What is their program for peace? This is a vital question, because without a clear understanding of what the problem is, it is futile to talk about a solution. We have heard the junta repeat this time and again, that the problem is the problem of the south. Obviously, the junta has a very shallow and distorted perception of the nature of the central problem of the Sudan.

On this, the government of the parties that the junta ousted were much more advanced. All peace agreements, as you all know, from Koka Dam to the 16 November peace initiative, affirmed that the problem is the problem of the Sudan, and not the so-called problem of southern Sudan. In this global perception of the problem—indeed, this global perception of the problem constitutes Paragraph one of the Koka Dam agreement. Brigadier 'Umar [words indistinct] perception and contention that he has come to solve the problem of southern Sudan misses the point by a wide margin. It is a step backwards, a retrogression, indeed, a crude and reactionary position that can only bring disaster, not peace, to the country.

In my address to the nation on 27th May 1985, I underlined the stupidity of diagnosing the general problem of the Sudan as the southern problem, and I quote: Negotiations in the context of the so-called southern problems is against the national interest and a recipe for disaster. Suppose we solve the problem of the south—We will soon have to solve the problem of the [word indistinct], because the Nubahs can also take up arms. After that the problem of the (?Bijahs), and so forth. It is a national problem, not a southern problem, that we might address. End of quote.

That was in 1985. I told this to General Siwar al-Dhahab and his provisional military council, and I am telling it now to Brig 'Umar al-Bashir and his Salvation Command Council. This statement, which I made in 1985, is more true today than it was then. The Nubah had not taken up arms in 1985, but they have done so today and I [word indistinct] them men and women. While Brig 'Umar solves the southern problems, more people in addition to southerners, Nubahs, and Ingessenas will have taken up arms, including the people of Madani, Hasahisah, and Shendi [words indistinct]. If the junta is to be of any use to the Sudan, it must discard its perception of a southern problem and think with the rest of us, think with the march of history, not with the archaic past. According to this archaic perception, 'Umar thinks that he is a Sudanese nationalist and we in the SPLA are his southerners. And according to him, all that will be required is for him to sit down with Dr John Garang, representing the south, and him representing the Sudan, and his representing the Sudan [repetition as heard] and, in his words, talk soldier-to-soldier to solve the southern problem.

Has Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir bothered to ask the question as to what it is that makes him a Sudanese and makes Dr John Garang a southerner?

Fellow citizens, regarding the junta's program for peace, they started on the wrong foot and ended up without a peace program. The regime started out with the announcement that they are against all previous peace agreements reached by the SPLM-SPLA and the previous governments. Well, a simple initial question is: What is the guarantee that whatever peace agreement SPLM-SPLA reaches with the junta will not be cancelled by some other 'Umar two, who may take over tomorrow? Or does Mr al-Bashir consider himself the last coup- maker?

But, more substantively, the truth is that the Koka Dam agreement of 1986 and the November peace initiative of November 1988 were reached by the SPLM-SPLA and the majority of the Sudanese political forces representing, in one way or the other, the Sudanese people. These agreements addressed the fundamental problems of the Sudan, unity of the country, religion and state, democracy, the system of rule, restructuring of the center—restructuring of the power at the center—the new Sudan, social-economic development, and so forth.

The junta is behaving as if Sudan came into being on 30th June. It is presumptious of these officers to throw away all previous peace agreements and peace accords as announced and to claim to start from scratch. There is a wealth of accumulated experience about the process of (?negotiating) disagreements. Be that as it is, the junta has cancelled everything that was on the Sudanese political landscape before 30th June, including all previous peace agreements.

Let us look at the junta's replacement of these agreements. That is: What is their peace program? Piecing together what the junta has said so far, one can summarize their peace program in four points, namely: (1) cease-fire; (2) amnesty; (3) talks with the SPLM-SPLA without preconditions; and, (4) solution to what the junta calls the southern problem.

If we take the four points together, they simply do not constitute any new radical peace program that would justify a coup d'etat. One would have expected a dramatic move towards peace to justify the takeover, such as the outright abrogation of the September [1983 Islamic shari'ah] laws, lifting of the state of emergency, abrogation of defense treaties with foreign countries, and the immediate convening of the national constitutional conference. Such a program could have been a substitute for Koka Dam and might have justified the coup as a necessary step towards peace and democracy.

Compatriots, that the junta has no peace program is best illustrated by considering their four points singly. I say that its points collapse to nothing. Take the first point: cease-fire. This is not new. We had a cease-fire that had lasted for 2 months when 'Umar made his coup. The second point: amnesty. This is as naive and absurd as the (?peace) [word indistinct] proposition for 'Umar to make. 'Umar says he offers amnesty to the SPLA so that the SPLA returns to the Sudan in peace.

Well then, Mr al-Bashir must know that we are in the Sudan. But that is not the point. The point is that 'Umar is just as much a rebel as the SPLA—a rebel as much as the SPLA and a junior one, for that matter. 'Umar al-Bashir rebelled against an elected government only 40 days ago. What is it that gives this new and junior rebel the legitimaticy to offer amnesty?

The issue of amnesty simply does not arise in the peace process and we dismiss the junta's statement of an amnesty as ill-advised and in bad taste. We advise the junta not to mention the issue of amnesty again. The third point in the junta's peace [word indistinct], that is talking to the SPLM-SPLA without preconditions. This is also nothing new. We have been talking with the previous governments and political parties without preconditions.

In order for any two parties to talk, they do not need preconditions. They simply agree to talk. This was the case when we met at Koka Dam. It was the case when I met Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in July, 1986. It was the case when we held a series of meetings with the African parties in 1987, and it was the case when we met the DUP delegation in August, 1988. There were no preconditions in all these talks. Perhaps the junta is confused and makes no distinction between talks and the outcome of talks.

Their fourth point, the last one in their peace (?progress): Solving what the junta calls the southern problem. I have already dismissed this earlier as a nonstarter. In summary, the junta has no peace program, and one wonders why they took over power only 4 days before the scheduled peace talks of 4th July and before the national constitutional conference that was scheduled for 18th September. One wonders whether the junta did not take over power in order to stop the peace process. It is up to the junta to prove the contrary. The Sudanese people and the SPLM-SPLA are waiting and watching.

Fellow citizens, the second question is: What support does the junta enjoy within the Sudanese Army? This question is important, because the Army, at present, is the only presumed base of the junta. From our contacts with various elements in the Army, the junta is opposed by the majority of the Sudanese Army. The truth is that the Army has agreed to take over when they presented their 21-point memorandum to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi last February. Subsequently, the Army started public opinion for the takeover.

At the same time, the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, under pressure from the threat of the Army takeover, from the Sudanese public, and the threat from the SPLA and from the international community had started to talk and to want peace much more seriously than at any other time. Indeed, the same day of the coup on 30th June, the Council of Ministers was going to pass all the provisions of the DUP-SPLA November peace agreement.

After this, the necessary bills were going to be passed by the Constituent Assembly before the 4th July meeting between the government and the SPLA, and this was to pave the way for the convening of the national constitutional conference scheduled for 18th September. It was under the (?confusion) of these circumstances that the four principal officers of the junta made their move.

Probably they feared that the 4th July meeting was going to lead to the national constitutional conference. Essentially, the four officers took over power by deception, and this likely explains why there was no fighting. They went to the Army general headquarters and announced that the expected military takeover was under way and that they were acting in the name of the general headquarters. They told all units in the capital to remain in their places and that no one should enter or leave military barracks.

In the meantime, they arrested the Army high command and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's ministers, and announced the military takeover in their own name to the surprise and disbelief of the rest of the Army. The other 11 council members were coopted subsequently. When the trick of the four officers was discovered and their ideological orientation known, opposition within the Army started immediately.

Compatriots, that this is the actual situation is indicated by the fact that as I talk to you today, more than 600 Army officers and 400 police officers have been dismissed in the last 40 days of the coup, and the (?fascists) are continuing. If the coup d'etat was a military takeover popular in the Sudanese Army, why should the junta be dismissing its officer cadres? Why so many officers dismissed? We are here not talking of a few officers [words indistinct]. We are talking of more than 600 officers. What is the explanation of this?

In all Sudan's previous three military coups—1958, 1969, and 1985—this phenomenal dismissal of officers has never happened. It is unprecedented. The likely reality is that the junta, or rather the fundamentalist political force behind it, is destroying the Sudanese Army in order to replace it with a sectarian army intended to defend the political program of that political force. Sectarianism in the Sudanese Army, as it is in politics, does not augur well for peace and unity of the Sudan, and I take the opportunity to warn the Sudanese people of this imminent danger.

Fellow citizens, the third question is: What mass support does the junta enjoy among the Sudanese public? It is true that the Sudanese people were fed up with sectarian politics and with the bickering of the sectarian parties. The economic situation had reached an unbearable low. Life was miserable. The people wanted an end to the war and wanted peace to break out so that the country ushers in a new era of rapid socioeconomic development and prosperity. Any government that replaced the impotent government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was to be preferred.

Indeed, the Sudanese people expected a coup, almost were calling for a coup, in the absence of any credible alternative there could be. But is this the coup the people expected or called for? I believe the answer is no.

When the junta called for a mass rally in Khartoum for the public to express their support, less than 3,000—less than 3,000—people turned up to hear 'Umar al-Bashir explain why he took over. In a city of 5,000,000 people, for only 3,000 to turn up, or even 10,000, as reported by some international media, this is tantamount to a mass popular vote against the junta.

In the desperate situation of the Sudan, a popular military takeover should have been greeted by a mass rally of at least 1,000,000 people. What happened? The people are encouraging [as heard]. He who takes them for granted does so at his own peril. They know the character of the junta that has taken over.

The truth is that Sudan does not need another military dictatorship. We have had them for 23 of 33 years. The people might have wanted an interim government initiated of necessity by the Army and that would be charged with a specific program to prepare the way for true democracy and the creation of the new Sudan. The Sudanese people do not want—and certainly do not want—an indefinite military dictatorship as declared by the junta in their statement.

Compatriots, the fourth question: What is the position of the junta on democracy? Without mincing their words, the junta say that they have come to establish a military dictatorship. This comes at a time when the wind of democracy is blowing all over the world, at a time when dictators are being toppled in popular uprisings.

Can Sudan be the exception to democracy? The junta has asserted that democracy has failed three times in the Sudan. They cannot be more wrong. They probably do not know the meaning of democracy. It is true that what appeared to be liberal democracy from 1956 to 1958, again from 1964 to 1969, and recently from 1986 to 1989—that is a total of about 10 years out of our 33 years of independence. On the other hand, there has been a military dictatorship from 1958 to 1964, from 1969 to 1985, from 1985 to 1986—that is, for 23 years of our 33 years of independence.

This one, now under Al-Bashir, is our fourth military dictatorship. Those pseudo-liberal democracies and military dictatorships have served in Sudan, and what is more, military dictatorship has failed in more years—23 years compared to 10 years—than the pseudo-liberal democracy that the junta has found convenient to criticize. This compels us to concretely discuss democracy as applied to the Sudanese situation.

Compatriots, democracy might mean different things to different people, but in essence, it relates to a system of government in which the (?prime) power is vested in the people, and state power is directly or indirectly exercised by them. So, whenever we talk of democracy, we should be presumed to be talking about a system of government, not government by whim. People's power, and not that of a tribal chief [words indistinct] military dictator, or religious imam claiming to represent or to know the interests of the people.

That power also is not a (?constructive) abstraction. It is a reality that affects the daily lives of people. In an address to the nation on 22nd March 1985, shortly before the fall of Numayri, I summarized in nine points the objectives of the movement. The first of those points related to the maintenance of Sudan's national unity and territorial integrity. The second reflected the SPLM's commitment to the establishment of a new democratic Sudan, with equality, freedom, economic, and social justice, and respect for human rights, and not as mere slogans, but as concrete realities to be promoted, cherished, and protected. End of quote.

The [word indistinct] of the democracy we are striving for are thus very clear: personal and political freedom, social and economic justice, respect for human rights, equality of citizens before the law, equality irrespective of race, creed, religious belief, or sect. Equally clear is our conviction that such democracy does not exist and has not existed in the Sudan we know.

On the eve of Sudan's independence, the British had bequeathed to our country a system of liberal democracy based on multi-party rule, freedom of expression and association, and independence of the judiciary. The model of government is what has failed three times in the course of the last 33 years following Sudan's independence.

In effect, what has failed was not liberal democracy, rather, the way that democracy was envisaged or understood and then artlessly grafted onto Sudan's body politic. Worse still, it was the very champions of liberal democracy in the Sudan who had often masterminded its demise through political recklessness, social irresponsibility, and the underlying sectarianism. The truth, however, is that Sudan's liberal democracy was but a hollow shell, a mere procedural exercise without substance, political, and economic content, to which the political players were intellectually and emotionally committed.

It was, therefore, a matter of no surprise to anyone that whenever liberal democracy collapsed under the heels of the military, the first to lambast it were those who pretended to be its champions. Sometimes those self-proclaimed advocates of liberal democracy were even seen hailing and welcoming the military as saviours and redeemers.

I am now informed, and I am not surprised, that the members of the previous government, while still in jail, are already lobbying in favor of the new military regime. So what democrats are these who only yesterday prided themselves in running what they called an oasis of democracy in Africa and who now hail the military as saviors.

Surely we are not talking the same language. Democracy to those of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and their like is only a tool, a procedure, not an ideal.

Compatriots, liberal democracy cannot be a code to be copied, nor a flag to be waved. It is a system of government that was born out of a bitter struggle for freedom and justice as we are now struggling for the same causes. It was a struggle against feudalist exploitation, against centrifugal forces that threaten national unity, against the entanglement of the church in the affairs of the state, against the exploitation of the working class by capitalists, against sexist domination of women by men, and so on. But that was not (?there) in the Sudan where the facade of liberal democracy served as a comfortable alibi, concealing all manner of injustice inherent in a social system nurtured and sustained by the forces of reaction who masqueraded as the advocates of liberalism.

For example, Sudan's traditional political parties, far from being a reflection of social class affiliation as was the case in Europe, were really frontages to sectarianism, sectarianism built on family, on race, religion, or some compound of these. Sectarianism, on the other hand is by definition undemocratic. What sort of democracy is there in a system where political authority is hereditary [words indistinct] immune from accountability, and the masses have no independent will of their own, but always presumed to follow the isharah [counsel] of the imam.

Democracy cannot, has never, and will never flourish in a situation characterized by sectarianism. There has thus never been democracy in the Sudan, and democracy as such has never failed in the Sudan. What there has been and what has failed in the Sudan is sectarianism and military dictatorship. Sudan has yet to devise its own form of democracy, in which the noble values of freedom, fraternity, prosperity, justice, and equality should be maintained on our cultural soil, while the social aberrations and anachronisms of traditional society are weeded out.

Two things should be underlined in this regard. The first is that, given the country's multiplicity, the Sudanese political system will have to be pluralistic within a basic commonality. It is to be cautioned, however, that such pluralism must be a reflection of social differentiation and ease of administration and development, rather than religious, regional, or ethnic cleavages. For while the former would ensure better interest articulation by the party on behalf of its constituents, the latter would only serve to highlight cleavages that militate against national unity.

Secondly, for such democracy to take root it will have to come out through a serious national debate involving all political forces, social, and professional groups, including the SPLA and the Army. As regards the latter, the Army, no-one in his right mind would deny such a right to the military, having seen them involved in politics for two-thirds of the life-span of modern, independent Sudan. On the other hand, any military ruler who believes that he can remove with a strike of a pen Sudan's political forces and social and professional groups must be living in a political wilderness and does so at his own [word indistinct].

Compatriots, such a national debate, we have said and resay time over time, will have to address the country's past, rooted problems which are basically political in nature. No legal tinkering by technocrats shall suffice. In this connection, the views of the SPLM-SPLA were emphatically expressed in my address over the movement's radio on 26th and 27th May 1985. That address was meant among other things, to lay at rest the specific, though [word indistinct] question: What does the SPLM want? Quoting from that statement, this dialogue must be undertaken by all democratic and patriotic forces in the country, so that a national democratic consensus is reached on this fundamental issue.

Such a national democratic consensus cannot be brought about by a bunch of generals. It can only be brought about through dialogue among the national democratic and patriotic forces in the country: and the SPLM-SPLA is willing and ready to enter into that broad discussion—end of quote. This remains as valid today as it was in 1985.

On the practical sphere of action, the movement's resolve and commitment to the democratic option was reflected in both the Koka Dam declaration and the Sudanese peace initiative of November 1988. In its preamble the Koka Dam declaration affirmed our rejection of all forms of dictatorship and our desire to create a new Sudan in which the Sudanese individual enjoys absolute freedom from the shackles of injustice, ignorance, and disease in addition to enjoying the benefits of real democratic life, a new Sudan that would be free from racism, tribalism, sectarianism, and all causes of discrimination and disparity. Thus, the democracy we are

fighting for has broad social, economic, and cultural dimensions. It is not a hollow shell. It is not the pseudo-liberal democracy that has failed and is discredited in the Sudan.

Our commitment to democracy was further emphasized in the Sudanese peace initiative where the preamble part also referred to the resolutions of both signatories in consolidating and enriching Sudan's democratic practice.

We assure the junta and the Sudanese people that our commitment to democracy is irrevocable and non-negotiable. On the other hand, there is nothing that bars the junta from taking the democratic option and scrapping dictatorship.

Fellow citizens, the sixth question is: What is the position of the junta on religion and the state? Judging from the junta's statements, there is sufficient reason for concern that Brig 'Umar al-Bashir has a written agenda, with or without the National Islamic Front [NIF], to impose a theocratic state on the [word indistinct] part of the Sudan. When Brig 'Umar took over, it was widely expected that his first act would be to abolish Numayri's September laws. Instead, Al-Bashir outdid Siwar al-Dhahab [leader of the transitional military council in 1985-86] in his fundamentalism and started to talk the same language as Dr al-Turabi [secretary general of the NIF]. Al-Bashir declared the Constitution suspended, but curiously enough picked one item, Numayri's shari'a law, for discussion with the SPLM-SPLA. This express his ideological color.

Al-Bashir said that if he fails to make agreement with the SPLM-SPLA on the question of Numayri's September laws, it would be taken to the people for decision in a popular referendum. That is most interesting. A self-imposed military junta has the audacity to talk of carrying out a popular referendum on shari'a law, when no referendum has been carried out on the junta's assumption of power. With its lack of legitimacy (?aside), the junta's friends in the NIF will tell them that Allah's laws, the laws of God, are not subject to human opinion. Indeed, it is blasphemous for Al-Bashir to say that God's laws should be taken for human judgement.

Compatriots, on the question of religion and politics, the SPLM sure enough is not an anti-religion movement. The movement is not against any religion. On this issue, the movement's manifesto declares that an ideal system of government for the Sudan is that where the state is separated from both mosque and church. Within such a system—and I quote—all religious sects in the country shall have complete freedom to practice without hindrance or intimidation, provided that this freedom to practice is not abused and used for political purposes—end of quote.

This citation comes from a paragraph in the manifesto entitled Religious Fundamentalism and the reference to fundamentalism was deliberate. To us in the SPLM-SPLA fundamentalism stands condemned because it is sectarian and undemocratic. Fundamentalism is also condemnable because it goes against the grain of Sudanese society as it has historically evolved.

Our country's historical evolution informs that interfaith coexistence was the result of a process whereby heavenly religions did not only tolerate indigenous belief systems in Sudan but also in many instances [words indistinct]. That is why instead of religious conflicts, the Sudan has survived for centuries in ecumenical harmony. This tradition was carried further through the colonial period. The Sudanese Muslim leaders reconciled themselves with the secular aspects of colonial rule and many of their political actions or reactions to the ealier non-Muslim system, [word indistinct] inspired by religious responses. True to this spirit of religious tolerance, the two Muslim sectarian leaders, Sayyid 'Ali and Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahman, continued to turn away calls for the imposition of Islam on Sudan's legal system.

The two Sayyids could have imposed an Islamic constitution on the country at independence since they had a sufficient majority in Parliament. But, unlike their more educated heirs, they obviously had the wisdom to realize that such an imposition would not be cost-free. Its highest cost would have been national disintegration. Accordingly, Sudan continued invariably to be governed by secular laws except when it came to personal laws. The fundamentalists, therefore, had to wait for Numayri's reincarnation as an imam in 1983 in order to carry out their design. Ja'far Numayri, encouraged and abetted by the Muslim brothers, decreed his version of shari'a, the so-called September law, and made of religious belief a determinant of political behavior. And since then the shadow of Numayri has hung ominously over the country.

Under Numayri's shari'a, it is known that over 300 citizens, mostly non-Muslim [word indistinct] were amputated or [words indistinct] amputated. They have formed an Association called the Association of Sudanese Amputees, ASA. No other country in the world boasts a similar organization. Another 700 or more continue to languish in jail as the state is afraid to apply the sentence and there is no appeal against God's law.

When Numayri was dislodged from power in April 1985, one of the slogans of the popular uprising was cancellation of Numayri's abhorrent September Laws. But the generals who hijacked the popular uprising, under Siwar al-Dhahab, were in no mood to undo the ugly remnants of Numayrism, including his undemocratic religious laws. Indeed, Siwar al-Dhahab then, like Al-Bashir now, started to talk the language of Dr al-Turabi.

On his recent trip to Tripoli, last week, Al-Bashir told the Sudanese community in Libya that, and I quote—There can be no unity in the Sudan except under Islam—end quote. This is a very dangerous statement that further revealed Brig 'Umar's fundamentalist inclination and intention to partition the country.

Compatriots, as things stand today, there is no greater danger to our country's unity and stability than that posed by fundamentalism. The fundamentalists may now be entering a new stage in their maneuvering. It is a dangerous stage. Having failed to get their way through the democratic process and through street intimidation and media vilification, they are now poised to usurp state power either directly or by proxy, through Al-Bashir's junta, as they did under Numayri.

Fundamentalism in the case of the Sudan is really a misnomer for, by definition, what is dubbed "fundamental," is so called because it is against (?the roots). The roots of our belief system, be they traditional or heavenly, have given birth to inter-faith harmony. But what the fundamentalists of Khartoum seek to impose on the country today is an intellecutual vision of Islam based on experiences alien to the Sudan—and, indeed, alien to Africa. It is a vision of Islam that is never practiced and has never been practiced in any of our villages anywhere in our country.

The call by the SPLM/SPLA for the separation of mosque and church, on the one hand, from the state, is the experience of the Sudan and of Africa. Africa has known predominatly Muslim countries like Senegal which have been ruled by a Catholic president for decades. Power changed hands smoothly from President Senghor, a Christian, to the present President Diouf—Abdullah [as heard] Diouf, a Muslim. Similarly, power passed smoothly in Tanzania, a country with a Christian majority, from President Julius Nyerere, a Christian, to the present president, Hassan Ali Mwinyi, a Muslim. Africa has also seen almost total Muslim countries, like Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Nigeria, who still refuse to be drawn into the dangerous game of imposing on its citizens public laws that are religiously based. Other African countries with Muslim majorities, more than that of the Sudan, have not imposed shari'a Islamic law. These countries include Egypt, Chad, Niger, Mali, Gambia and Somalia.

We advise Al-Bashir not to take the position taken by fundamentalists for that position is dangerous, unhistorical and alien to the Sudan and to Africa. We do not need a referendum on shari'a. God's law cannot be put to a referendum.

We repeat: Our position is that we are not against Islam. We respect it. And we cannot be against God's law. All that we say is that shari'a Islamic law or any other religious and law pertaining to other religions is personal law. A relationship between the believer and his God. The believer is free to choose which aspects of shari'a Islamic law he shall observe and which he may not. And it is only the believer who will be answerable about those he does not observe when the day comes. And only God will judge. This position is stressed by most Muslims in the Sudan and it is the position on religion all over Africa.

Since Al-Bashir has absolute power and he is not answerable to any parliament, the movement calls on Al-Bashir to immediately remove Numayri's September laws from the books and to return the country to the pre-1983 situation. The September laws are not God's law. They are Numayri's and Turabi's. God's law will remain in the hearts of men and women not in statutes books. Religion belongs to the individual and the state belongs to all of us collectively. There can be no mistake in this simple truth.

Fellow citizens, the fifth question is: What is the junta's position on the unity of the Sudan? Do they believe in Sudanese unity? On this we have reason to believe that the junta has a hidden agenda to partition the country. Al-Bashir himself has said so in various forms at least three times in the last 40 days. Although this has been officially denied by a spokesman of the junta, there is sufficient cause for alarm. Separatism is, of course, known to be a program of the National Islamic Front.

It was the program of the Anyanya movement in the south. On this, I would once again want to assure the Sudanese people that the movement is totally against separation.

In this connection, it is to be recalled that the first blood shed by the SPLA was not against the Sudanese Army. The fact is that we were against separatists within the SPLA. This is a matter of public and historical records.

In 1983, at its inception, the SPLA fought against the separatist tendency of Akout Atem, Gai Tut, and William Abdullah Chuol. Separatism is a form of reaction and opportunism. It is known that Akuot Atem separatists is a form of reaction and opportunism. It is known that Akuot Atem separatists eventually ended up allying themselves with Khartoum's army as their so-called friendly forces, fighting for southern Sudan from Khartoum.

Official on Preparatory Talks With SPLM

EA1608164989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug—A high-level military delegation led by Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin al-Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, will go to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, next week to conduct preparatory talks with the Popular Movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] on the issue of peace in the country.

Col al-Amin (?commented) to SUNA today that the statement issued by the movement about peace would have no effect on those talks, saying that [words indistinct] with reactions.

Al-Amin described the talks held by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council in addition to [words indistinct] with the Ethiopian delegation currently visiting the country as successful and [words indistinct] the peace issue in the Horn of Africa. [passage indistinct]

Talks With Garang Group Previewed

EA1708194289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 89

[From the "Topic of the Day" program]

[Text] It has been announced that a high-level official delegation, led by a National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member, is to go to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, next week for preliminary talks with Garang's movement within the framework of the government's efforts to achieve peace in southern Sudan.

In fact, right from the start the national salvation revolution concentrated on the issue of peace. It did so clearly and positively in the program it laid down for national salvation. This was preceded by its declaration of a cease-fire and general amnesty. It renewed those declarations during the OAU meetings. It has renewed its invitation for a dialogue without preconditions on various occasions.

However, in spite of the fact that the movement has not yet made its position clear as regards these efforts, the movement should ascertain some facts which are appreciated by all the people of Sudan, including those bearing arms with Mr Garang's movement. The most important of these is the war raging in southern Sudan. The Sudanese people are the primary victim. The Sudanese economy and Sudan's development are being destroyed.

We are still on the threshold of a new era. It is up to all citizens of the homeland to redouble their efforts to ensure victory in the battles for construction and national reform. The issue of peace and stability in the south should be the concern of every patriotic Sudanese who regrets the continuation of the turmoil and whose sleep is disturbed by the loss of innocent victims and by the proliferation of insecurity and social and economic crises in the country because of this meaningless and uncalled-for war.

We believe that the revolution's clear and sincere intentions for the homeland have become clear now that some time has elapsed since it came to power. What has also become clear is its resolve for an even-handed approach to any of Sudan's crucial issues, as used to happen in the past. This belief is backed by the intensive efforts which the revolution is making both inside and outside Sudan and its keenness to assert that war is not its objective. It is seeking to promote the well-being of the homeland and its inhabitants, who have suffered greatly from the disasters of wars, destruction, and compromises.

We hope that Garang's movement will respond to these efforts with a measure of flexibility that will make it possible to open channels of constructive and serious dialogue which could achieve sound and final solutions to this crisis. We refer here to the movement's recent statement and to the national salvation revolution's confirmation that it will send a delegation to Ethiopia to meet the movement and that it is not in the business of issuing reactions. This proves once again the revolution's good intentions.

We hope that the forthcoming meeting between the NSRCC and Garang's movement will come about and that it will bring about a clarification of views, resulting in the achievement of peace and stability in southern Sudan. God is the granter of success.

Delegation To Leave 18 Aug

EA1708205789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpt] A high-level military delegation led by Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah will tomorrow, Friday, proceed to Addis Ababa for preliminary talks with the popular movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] on the issue of peace in the country. Col Muhammad al-Amin said that the movement's statement on peace would not affect these talks. He added that the government was not in the business of issuing reactions. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Condoles Leland's Death

EA1708201489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1608 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 August—Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has sent a cable of condolence to the president [as received] of the US Congress on the death of Congress member Mickey Leland, who died in a plane crash nearby the Sudanese-Ethiopian joint borders last Monday. The foreign minister hailed the efforts exerted by the late Leland for peace and mankind.

Currency Exchange Deadline Extended to 31 Aug

EA1708213789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1618 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 August—The Economic Affairs Committee of the National Command Council has given foreign currency owners a twelve-day period during which they will be able to sell their hard currency to commercial banks, without having to come up with official documents.

The new period, which starts from current 19th August to 31st August, came after the committee had announced, during the past three weeks, as illegal the possession of hard currency. According to the committee's circular, the move has been taken after citizens who possess hard currency and who could not sell at the time, have contacted the committee explaining why they were not able to sell their currency. The committee said the decision was taken in recognition to the circumstances of these people.

Minister of Culture Announces 2 New Publications

EA1708124589 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1939 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of culture and information, Ustadh 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, received in his office this morning his excellency the ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria in Khartoum. The meeting was reported to have discussed the cultural agreement between the two countries, by virtue of which the cooperation agreement between the Ministries of Information, Inspection, Guidance and Orientation in the Sudan and the similar institutions in Nigeria will decide [sentence as heard].

Meanwhile, the minister of culture and information has stated that his ministry has presented the proposed amendment on the press and publications law to the attorney general for study and formulation into its final form as a law, and thereafter to be presented to the authorities concerned for endorsement.

Sayyid Shummu further stated that a decision was passed for the issuance of two daily newspapers from the Ministry of Culture and Information. The two papers are: "AL-INQAS" [SALVATION] and "AL-SUDAN AL-JADID" [THE NEW SUDAN]. Mr Shummu said the steps to execute production of the two dailies with regard to personnel attachment and production input was (?unfinished).

Editors, Papers Described

AB1608205889 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 16 (AFP)—Sudan's military-led government will shortly allow publication of two new daily newspapers in addition to the sole paper of the Armed Forces currently available, it was announced here Wednesday.

Information Minister 'Ali Shummu said steps had been taken to launch two dailies, AL-SUDAN AL-JADID (THE NEW SUDAN) and AL-INQAS (SALVATION), including the appointment of editorial staff.

AL-SUDAN AL-JADID will be edited by Muhammad Sa'id Ma'ruf, ex-director of the twice-weekly AL-ADWA'A (LIGHTS), while AL-INQAS will be run by Hasan al-Zayn, formerly a senior Information Ministry official and senior lecturer master at the Islamic University in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin town.

Mr Shummu described the new titles as "government dailies", without giving ownership details. He added that independent newspapers could eventually be authorized under a new media law currently being considered at the Ministry of Justice.

Before a military coup ousted the civilian government on June 30, there were more than 20 newspapers in Sudan, apart from sporting publications. The junta banned all but the Armed Forces weekly, which became a daily.

Kuwait

Government To Buy Jet Fighters From U.S. Company

JN1708162489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 9

[By staff reporter Jadranka Porter]

[Excerpts] McDonnell Douglas Corporation is being awarded a contract to build 32 F/A-18C and eight F/A-18D jet fighters for the government of Kuwait, according to the U.S. Defence Department and the aircraft manufacturer.

The total value of the contract, expected to be signed by today, was not announced but a spokesman for the aircraft manufacturer put the value of the first instalment at $489 million.

Tom Dawney, head of the McDonnell Douglas media relations for F18 programmes, said the work is to be completed in St. Louis in September 1993 but the delivery will take place in 1994.

The contract, part of a $1.9 billion U.S.-Kuwaiti arms deal signed in August last year, is to be awarded by the naval air systems command for a foreign military sale to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The ARAB TIMES learnt that Kuwait plans to send a maximum of 300 pilots for F18 training in the U.S. Technicians will be trained in Kuwait. The Ministry of Defence has begun preparations for the F18 programme with tenders for the aircraft hangar to be released shortly. Large consignments of equipment, including simulators, will be imported while a team of American experts will conduct courses in Kuwait for engineers who will instruct technicians.

The fighter bombers will be fitted with air-to-ground Maverick missiles.

Downey said the F/A-18D is a two-seat plane primarily made as a pilot trainer while the C model is a single seat combat plane.

He said the jet's range depended upon what is loaded on it but experts said thet F18 has a combat radius of more than 500 nautical miles. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Council of Ministers Discusses Lebanon, Libya

EA1708064589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and discussed a number of issues and reports incorporated in its agenda. The Council discussed a report on the material and technical base of fish cooperatives. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of its meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed the [word indistinct] development of the situation in Lebanon and its current critical and dangerous stage, which could have grave results for the future of Lebanon and the Arab world in general. Arising out of Democratic Yemen's concern that the situation in Lebanon, which is truly disastrous, should cease, it called on all Arab states to make intensive efforts—particularly the tripartite committee set up at the Casablanca summit—to stop the fighting and replace it with dialogue, and to strive to keep the Arab initiative to (?stop) the Lebanese crisis [words indistinct] the conflict the parties concerned in Lebanon (?and) offer all cooperation and assistance to [words indistinct] that are eager for the safety and unity of Lebanon.

The Council also reviewed the visit of the brother foreign minister to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Syrian Arab Republic. The council greatly appreciated the results of the two visits, particularly in relation to the development and strengthening of bilateral relations between Democratic Yemen and the two brotherly countries.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other issues and adopted (?appropriate) measures on them.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on Visit, Met by 'Aziz

JN1708163889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the director and members of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau at the Revolution Command Council; and the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1708184889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Arab arena.

Attending the meeting were the deputy of the official in charge of the Arab liberation movements' bureau at the Revolution Command Council, the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry, and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

President Receives Message From PDRY's Al-'Attas

JN1508180489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium [SPCP] in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], on the fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to promote them. The message was delivered by Al-'Attas' personal envoy Salih Sha'iq Husayn, member of the SPCP and Central Committee, when the president received him here this evening.

The meeting was attended by the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Cambodia's Long

JN1408204889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi this afternoon met with Long Visalo, Cambodian deputy foreign affairs minister.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of mutual concern, the latest results achieved by the Paris conference on Cambodia, and the situation in the region.

Long Visalo, Cambodian deputy foreign affairs minister, arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

Profits of Iraqi-Jordanian Company Detailed

JN1208135889 Baghdad INA in English 1335 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 12, INA—The two-day meetings of the 19th session of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company started here today in the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The session's agenda includes discussing the production and financial report and increasing the capital as well as the study concerning the company's fleet and ensuring spare parts, deposit system and external operation of the fleet.

It also includes discussing what had been implemented of the previous sessions minute as well as the system of the company's relations with the temporary law of companies and reducing expenditures and preparing cadres and operation.

The Iraqi side was headed by Mr. Ghassan 'Abdallah Radwan, deputy chairman of the joint board of directors of the company, and the Jordanian side was chaired by Mr. Nabih al-'Abwah, chairman of the board of directors.

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company had achieved last year $3.5 million profits and transported 2.395 million tons of goods between the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and Baghdad.

During the first four months of this year the company realised $1.35 million profit when it carried 471 thousand tons of goods and various materials between the two brotherly countries.

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company was established in 1980 with a $25-million capital and started operations in 1981.

The Amman-based company owns 900 trucks and it takes al-'Aqabah port as a center to operate its trucks where the operational and maintenance centres are located.

'Abd-al-Nasir Statue To Be Erected in Baghdad

JN1508121489 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 15, INA—President Saddam Husayn has given orders to erect a statue for the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in one of the main squares in Baghdad and naming one of the streets leading to the square "Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Street."

The order of President Saddam Husayn stressed the national meanings in which we believe and their role in the present and future of the Arab nation and to immortalize the national and patriotic role of the late President 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Pazner Denies U.S. Newspaper Report

TA1708174389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The White House sent a letter to Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin approximately 10 days ago. The letter includes direct and tough questions on Israel's goals and policy in southern Lebanon, its intentions regarding Hizballah leaders, and its plans to release the hostages held in Lebanon.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the wording of the letter is harsh, and that Jerusalem has still not responded to the questions raised in it. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the prime minister has not received any letter from the United States recently.

Pazner added that Prime Minister Shamir spoke with President Bush over the telephone several days ago in a conversation that was described as cordial. Pazner reported that there is no tension whatsoever between Israel and the United States, and the two countries maintain continuous contact on the hostage issue.

Shamir on Ties With U.S.

TA1808115289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that there has been no worsening in relations between Israel and the United States, and that he is categorical in saying as much. Mr Shamir pointed out that we conduct a daily dialogue on all levels with the United States, beginning with diplomatic talks in Washington and Jerusalem and frequent conversations between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his U.S. counterpart James Baker, through the talk between the prime minister and President Bush, which was of a very friendly nature.

Mr Shamir was reacting to reports in THE NEW YORK TIMES about a worsening in relations between Israel and the United States in the wake of Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with seven U.S. congressmen currently visiting the country.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 18 August quotes Shamir as adding that "Israel has no territorial designs on Lebanon. Israel's policy is clear, and all we want is peace on our northern border. Mr Shamir reiterated his call to cease the killing of innocent people in Lebanon."]

Bush, Baker 'Split' on Policy

TA1808065389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Washington correspondent Wolf Blitzer and Jerusalem correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Excerpts] In the aftermath of the latest U.S. hostage crisis in Lebanon, a growing split has developed between the White House and the State Department over U.S. policy toward Israel, according to well-informed U.S. officials. They said that President George Bush and his senior White House aides are becoming increasingly inclined to distance the U.S. from Israel than Secretary of State James Baker and his advisers.

Israeli officials are deeply worried that Bush personally directed much of the high-level U.S. anger toward Israel, the sources said. Vice-President Dan Quayle is described as a dissenting voice, usually expressing a greater understanding of Israel.

But sources in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday told THE JERUSALEM POST that Bush had promised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that "no one will be allowed to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Israel."

The pledge—an apparent reference to Hizballah's threats on Americans after Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd—was made both during the "extremely friendly" telephone conversation initiated by Shamir last week and in a cable sent by Bush three days ago, the sources said.

This week a top U.S. official sent by the Bush administration told Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Moshe Arad that U.S.-Israel relations have been "completely restored" to their pre-'Ubayd level, the sources revealed.

"At this point, all our information indicates that the U.S. appreciates that the abduction (of 'Ubayd) was a positive thing and has served as a catalyst towards a possible release of all the hostages," the sources said. "Any reports that there is friction now in relations with the Americans are being spread by parties who have an interest in undermining these relations."

The sources described the personal rapport between Bush and Shamir as "absolutely excellent."

The reported rift stems in part from what is seen as Bush's chilly relationship with Shamir as opposed to Baker's recently improved relationship with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Washington officials said. The prevailing thinking in the White House is that Israel, by capturing 'Ubayd without any advance consultation with Washington, is not behaving as a reliable strategic partner. [passage omitted]

But in Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry officials expressed "surprise" at the reports of tension between the State Department and the Bush administration over their differing views towards Israel.

The officials saw "no indication" that the State Department—whose bureaucracy has, during the past decade, been less friendly towards Israel than the administration it served—was today friendlier to Israel than in the past. Despite the strong Jewish representation on the department's Middle East desk, said the sources, its officials are "young, knowledgeable and ambitious—which does not bode well for their relations with the current Jerusalem government, which wants to drag out the diplomatic process."

As for relations between Baker and Arens, the Jerusalem officials noted that there was "considerable friction" during the two visits by Arens to Washington earlier this year, before Shamir's unveiling of his diplomatic initiative in April. Baker had been disappointed with Arens for arriving in Washington empty-handed, the officials said.

Relations between the two, however, have reportedly improved since the 'Ubayd abduction, and they have held six telephone conversations in the past two weeks. [passage omitted]

Rabin: World's Silence 'Epitome of Hypocrisy'

TA1708150289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Report by 'Amos Har'el]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The defense minister refused to answer a question on whether Israel had transmitted a message or some signal to the Syrians in light of the Syrian siege of Beirut.

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not believe that we should make public announcements in an explicit manner. I believe that over the years a form of coexistence has emerged as the reality between Israel and Syria. It covers everything related both to Israeli activity in Lebanon, over Lebanese airspace, and near Lebanon, and Syrian activity. Both sides more or less understand and accept the rules, even though they have not signed any formal agreement or engaged in a dialogue. [end recording]

The Syrian siege, said Rabin, is first of all an international concern. It is absurd that the world, which is so distressed by every little thing that happens here in the territories, would ignore the indiscriminate massacre conducted by a regular army which fires shells in Beirut.

[Begin Rabin recording] It seems to me that this is the epitome of hypocrisy by the international community. All those who hesitate to raise their voice in an outcry against a situation in which hundreds of civilians are being killed, thousands injured, and approximately 1 million have become refugees by leaving Beirut, should bear this in mind when they come to talk to us. [end recording]

The defense minister does not believe Israel is jeopardized by Iraq's role as the Christians' main arms supplier. In the prevailing situation in Lebanon, he said, it is important that 'Awn's supporters be Arab countries. It strengthens him and increases his ability to persevere. [passage omitted]

Rabin Cited Further

TA1708192489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the families of soldiers Fink and Alshekh had information about their sons following the interrogation of Shaykh 'Ubayd prior to the leak and publication of the report in THE SUNDAY TIMES. Interviewed for this television program, the defense minister also said that the Syrians are very well acquainted with the rules of the game in Lebanon. He believes they have also accurately interpreted the meaning of the frequent sorties conducted by the Air Force over the north in the past few days. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Rabin] What is happening [in southern Lebanon] is only a fraction of what is happening in Beirut. If such a thing happened even remotely connected to Israel, the whole world would have been up in arms. They were unable to summon the UN Security Council simply because there was no one to request such a session. Nevertheless, heavy international pressure has been felt over the past few days.

['Eden] Mr Minister, how do you envision the scenario of events should Beirut not enjoy any calm in the near future? What is your evaluation of the near future?

[Rabin] I hope that if the cease-fire takes effect, or if the warfare subsides substantially as we have seen over the past 24 hours, and if this is followed by several days of calm, it will be possible to handle the issue politically and peacefully. I believe that it will be difficult for the Syrians to face up to what is happening both in the Arab world and the international community, and to Christian perseverance. Also, if Syria takes the possible Iraqi or Israeli positions into account, I hope it will be dissuaded from taking further action.

['Eden] Mr Minister, has any progress been made in regard to our hostages in Lebanon?

[Rabin] There is no question that Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction raised the issue of the hostages in general—and our POW's, MIA's, and kidnapped soldiers in particular—to the top of the world's agenda. I hope that this will result in the creation of a possibility for negotiations

that will bring our boys back home. Yet no such negotiations have started to date. These negotiations are far more involved than anything we have experienced before with the Palestinian terrorist organizations. They will require patience, perseverance, and a lot of time. [end recording]

Katyusha Rockets Fired in Galilee; No Casualties

TA1808062089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired last night from southern Lebanon at western Galilee. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the rockets were apparently fired from beyond the security zone.

In the security zone, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers yesterday blew up a suspicious car. As it turned out, the car did not contain explosives. The car owner parked it at the side of the road in violation of the regulations. Our correspondent points out that in the wake of the explosion of the car bomb in southern Lebanon 2 weeks ago, IDF and South Lebanese Army soldiers abide by strict security regulations.

Shamir Cited on Arab States' Election Delegation

TA1808091989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 89 p A2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has suggested that Egypt invite other Arab states to help form a Palestinian delegation for negotiations with Israel in the framework of elections in the territories.

Shamir, through a U.S. congressman who visited Israel, delivered a message regarding the issue to Egypt this week. The idea is to circumvent Shamir's opposition to negotiations with a Palestinian delegation set up as a result of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO-Tunis. [passage omitted]

Egyptian officials recently told Israeli elements that Egypt cannot understand why Israel needs elections in the territories. Egypt fails to see why discussions on the interim and permanent arrangements, in accordance with a predetermined timetable, should not commence immediately.

Egypt has already rejected the proposal that the country itself form a Palestinian delegation, made up solely of residents of the territories, for preliminary talks with Israel on the elections.

Shamir's latest offer was meant to enable Egypt to share responsibility with other Arab countries, the intention mainly being Jordan, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

Observers in Jerusalem expressed doubt as to the likelihood of these countries lending their assistance to such an initiative, adding that even if they do, Egypt will remain the target for criticism by the other Arab states, as it is the senior Arab entity in the group.

Paper Welcomes Rise in Jordanian Dinar's Value

TA1708160889 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Dinar Regains Its Status"]

[Text] The continuous improvement in the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate against the shekel and the dollar, which occurred unexpectedly in the markets of the occupied territories over the last few days, is impressive. The dinar's exchange rate against the shekel reached 3.20 for purchase and 3.30 for selling. This reinforces the possibility that the dinar will continue to regain the status which it lost during the past months against the shekel due to psychological reasons, as well as other reasons which are not a secret to economists. These economists have always called on the residents to hold on to the dinar, and not speculate in it because this is apt to exacerbate the dinar's condition from the psychological viewpoint, and shake the residents' confidence in it.

This improvement in the dinar's exchange rate comes after the dinar reached its lowest level due to practices by speculators who placed personal gain above national considerations. They traded with the livelihood of the residents, and speculated with the dinar until its real value was lost. This increased the suffering of the residents and placed new burdens on their shoulders.

Therefore, the triumphant return of the dinar to the position that it had lost previously due to illegal speculation has been welcomed by all the occupied territories' residents. This is because the dinar is the means of their savings, the currency of their daily transactions, and the focus of their confidence. If the dinar is exposed to any tremors similar to those that have already occurred, it will endanger their livelihood.

Undoubtedly the current improvement in the dinar's situation is not unconnected to the steps of coordination and understanding that have been taken in the last few days between the Palestine National Fund and the Jordanian Government.

Hence, we hope that our merchants and moneychangers will preserve the new status of the dinar, and promote it so that it will continue to advance until it reaches its past level. By this we will be offering a great service to large sectors of our people who are paid in dinars. This service is not less than that of many of our national institutions who have stabilized the dinar's exchange rate against the shekel out of a sense of national responsibility toward our people.

250 Kg of 'Superior-Quality' Heroin Uncovered

TA1708161089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] A nationwide ring of drug smugglers, who brought hard drugs from Lebanon to Israel, was uncovered this afternoon thanks to a joint intelligence effort by detectives from the Sharon subdistrict and the Galilee subdistrict. Following orders from Central District Commander Ya'aqov Terner, detectives from the Sharon subdistrict raided the gang kingpin's hotel room in Netanya this afternoon. The raid yielded 250 kg of superior-quality heroin. So far three suspects have been rounded up, including the head of the ring—a Druze from the northern village of Yirka—and his lady friend, who distributed the narcotics in Israel. Additional detentions are expected.

2 Children Die of Meningococcemia in Nahariyya

TA1808051089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Two children, age 4 and 6, died last night in Nahariyya of a blood infection caused by a rare bacteria. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman points out that this is an outbreak of a very contagious disease, meningococcemia, a very rare, serious, and complicated form of meningitis. The disease is caused by bacteria, usually dormant, found in the throat of about 8 percent of the Israeli population. Dozens of relatives of the children and other people who came in contact with them, including the medical team, are being treated to prevent the spread of the disease. The Health Ministry does not yet know what caused the outbreak of the disease. The public in Nahariyya is urged to report to the hospital if they have headaches, fever, bleeding, or other side effects.

Gaza Strip Entry Permits Go Into Effect 18 Aug

TA1808042489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] In the Gaza Strip this morning, the security forces apprehended three masked men who tried to disrupt the departure of laborers for work in Israel on the 1st day of the use of the entry permits issued by the Civil Administration. As of today, laborers from the Gaza Strip who do not have such permits will not be allowed to work in Israel.

Reporting from the Erez terminal, our correspondent Moti Amir notes that some 700 vehicles have crossed so far on their way to work in Israel. Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, said this is not a low figure, seeing that generally only about 1,000 cars depart for work on Fridays.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising has called on the inhabitants to boycott the use of the entry permits and to strike from today until the beginning of next month.

New System Tested 17 Aug

TA1708151089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The Civil Administration forbade hundreds of residents of the Gaza Strip to enter Israel for work this morning. Their entry was barred after it was discovered that they did not have the magnetic identity cards which serve as exit permits.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Civil Administration carried out a spot check at the Erez checkpoint as a drill of the magnetic card system. The possession of the cards will become mandatory tomorrow.

Soldiers in Nabulus Shot At; Suspects Detained

TA1708193889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained slight head injuries by a rock in the city of Gaza. He was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for treatment. Military sources have told our correspondent Moti Amir that quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip today, and the Civil Administration issued 1,900 entry permits into Israel. The curfew imposed on some Rafah neighborhoods is still in effect.

Six residents of Samaria were hurt by IDF gunfire in the course of disturbances today. Two of them are inhabitants of the Tulkarm refugee camp, two are from Nabulus, one from Zayta, and another from the village of Bal'a. This was reported by army sources.

Our correspondent reports that an investigation of today's shooting incident in Nabulus determined that three gunshots were directed at soldiers manning an observation post in the center of town. One of the bullets hit the personal weapon belonging to a soldier on the outpost and only miraculously missed [him]. The IDF closed off the center of Nabulus and conducted searches, in the course of which several suspects were detained.

TIMES Urges Arab Agreement on Lebanon Moves

JN1708114489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17-18 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Arabs Hold Lebanon Card"]

[Text] There are voices from inside and outside Lebanon that contend that a military solution to the Lebanese crisis is not only probable but imminent. Yet a closer look at the military situation in that country would reveal that no such thing is even remotely possible. For short of an all-out invasion with an overwhelming force, which is not in the cards, the existing military stalemate is projected to maintain its momentum in the future. Accordingly it is quite irresponsible to think in terms of a military solution when all the evidence points the other way. Then why all the escalation and the intensification [of] the battle between the Lebanese factions?

It is just possible that the protagonists are calling for an international intervention to rescue them from their quagmire. It is also probable that the fighting parties seek justifications for the projected concessions that they feel they will have to make at the end of the tunnel. In other words, face-saving objectives cannot be automatically ruled out as paramount on the minds of the decision-makers on both sides of the fence. Meanwhile, the Lebanese people, from all sides, are being exploited as pawns in the Lebanese chess game.

But whatever the rationale and motivation behind the vicious escalation in the tempo of the fighting in Lebanon, the fact remains that a military solution is simply not in the cards. That means that a political settlement, formulated on the basis of reasonable compromises, is the only viable way to end the carnage in Lebanon.

In this vein, there are but two ways to go about achieving such a desired political settlement: Either the Arab governments do the job or the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council will be assigned this formidable task. The truth of the matter is that the two methods are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Since the Lebanese situation is first and foremost a regional conflict, a regional consensus is needed on the terms of the proposed resolution. In other words the primary jurisdiction lies with the Arab League countries which are duty bound to articulate a clear-cut formula for ending the Lebanese tragedy. But as long as the Arab governments shun away from exercising their responsibilities for one reason or another, the international community would find itself in a fix and unable to buttress the Arab efforts with all the means available to it. At least the Arab World must nod in agreement about what sort of action the big powers are expected to perform. In short the green light must come from the Arab countries before the foreign powers can truly undertake their complimentary action.

Foreign Ministry Employees Pensioned Off

JN1808062289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] Amman, PETRA—The Council of Ministers has decided to pension off the following Foreign Ministry employees effective 16 August 1989:

Wa'il al-Masri, Khalid al-Kayid, Mazin al-Nashashibi, Faysal al-Humud, 'Adli al-Nasir, 'Adnan al-Zubdah, 'Isa Dabbah, Hani Qatami, 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Umar, Nuha al-Nabulsi, and Walid al-Ramahi.

The Council also decided to transfer the following Foreign Ministry employees to provisional retirement effective 16 August 1989:

Tamim Khalifah, Ahmad al-Bahri, Jum'ah al-Salim, Fatih 'Assaf, Samih al-Ashqar, and Hisham al-Shawwa.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Lists Potential Candidates

JN1308114289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug p 9

[Text] The issue of local legislative elections has become topical since the names of many candidates have started to be mentioned in various constituencies. Some candidates have started to polish their concepts and ideas on how to carry out legislative work.

We are publishing the names of those who reportedly will run in the various constituencies:

Amman: ' Akif al-Fayiz, Marwan al-Qasim, Tahir al-Masri, Eng 'Umar 'Abdallah, Muhammad al-Dabbas, Dr Jamal al-Sha'ir, Shaykh Nayif al-Hadid, Lawyer Milhim al-Tal, Lawyer Faris al-Nabulsi, Eng Layth Shubaylat, Mahmud al-Kayid, Fahd al-Rimawi, Dr 'Ali al-Faqir, Lawyer Sulayman al-Hadid, Dr Ahmad Nawfal, Eng Sa'id Binu, Shaykh Muflih al-Lawzi, Pharmacist Amin Shuqayr, Lawyer Ahmad al-Najdawi, Dr Khaldun al-Zahir, Sulayman Rutaymah, Muhammad Nazzal al-'Armuti, Dr 'Ali al-Hawamidah, Ghalib Abu-'Abbud, Samir Qardan, Sami Qumwah, Muflih al-'Awdatallah, Wahid al-Ja'bari, Dr Ja'far al-Hunayti, Eng 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Nahar, Fakhri Qa'war, Yusuf al-'Absi, Khalaf Haddadin, Mamduh Abu-Hassan, Fakhri al-Bilbaysi, Mashhur Tadrus, 'Adil Ramadan, Muhammad Abu-'Aytah, Dr Muhammad Abu-Dalhum, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Dr Ja'far al-Hunayti, Musa Bayyuk, Dr Muhammad Khayr Mamasr, Dr Carlo Di'mis, Dr Ya'qub Zayadin, Pharmacist Samih Mataliqah, Muhammad 'Azzuqah, Sami Khawaja, Muhammad al-Haj Dhib, Anis al-Mu'ashshir, 'Assaf al-Kayid, Shakir al-Sukkar, Dr Shabib Abu-Shakir, Munir Snawbar [name as published], Muhammad al-Maharimah, Ahmad al-Is'is, Ahmad al-Hawyan, 'Awwad al-Nu'aymat, Muhammad Abu-Jamus, Muhammad al-'Asakirah, Dr 'Abdallah al-Khatib, Hayfa' al-Bashir, Dr Safa' al-Qusus, Lawyer Na'ilah al-Rashdan, Jeannette al-Mufti, and Muna Shuqayr.

Al-Zarqa': Dr Mamduh al-'Abbadi, Dr Munib al-Wir, Al-Haj Faris al-Sarayirah, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Dr Ahmad Fakhir, Dr Taysir 'Ammari, Ibrahim al-Sayil al-Hasban, Yusuf Hamdan al-Jabr, Salamah al-Ghuwayri, 'Abd-al-Bari al-Hamdan, Nawfan al-Ghuwayri, Salim al-Balawi, Muhammad Musa al-Ghuwayri, Dr Mustafa al-Fayyad, Dayfallah al-Qallab, Muhammad Salamah Abu-Khurmah, Shaykh Dhib Anis, Musa al-Khalayilah, 'Ali Daghash, Nur al-Din Dudin, Ziyad al-Shammas, Dr Muhammad al-Qusus, Nasrallah al-Zuyud, Shams-al-Din Tash, Bassam Haddadin, Dr Sultan Murad, Dr Muhammad al-Sukhun, Dr Ahmad al-Sa'd, Lawyer Jalal 'Abbasi, Dr Anwar Habayibah, Radwan al-Khalayilah, 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Alawi, Muhammad 'Uqlah al-Zuyud, Mukhlid al-Zawahirah, Dhib Anis, Salim al-Balwi, Fayyad Jarrar, Nazmi Ja'far, and Pharmacist Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz.

Al-Salt: Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Marwan al-Humud, Zuhayr Zuqan al-Husayn, Dr 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, Eng Ja'far Qutayshat, Dr Fawzi al-Tu'aymah, Dr 'Abdallah al-Zahir, Ibrahim al-Mas'ud al-Khuraysat, Shaykh Amin al-Kilani, Dr 'Awni Muhammad al-Bashir, Kamal Qaqish, Lawyer Fayiz Zaydan, Dr Muhammad Masalihah, Salim al-Gharib, Shaykh Muflih al-'Ulayyan, Lawyer Sa'id al-Kayid, Dr Mustafa Shunaykat, Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Hadidi, Sultan al-'Udwan, Jamal Abu-Baqar, Na'il Rajab al-Khashman, Bakr al-Hiyari, Muhammad Sa'd al-Khalaf, Jamil al-Rahaminah, Shaykh Muflih al-'Ulayyan, Salim al-Gharib, Fawzi al-Khatalin, Dr Salih Wuraykat, Al-Haj Mas'ud al-Kharabishah, Tawfiq al-Hiyari, Lawyer 'Isa Tadrus, Eng Samir Qa'war, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awamilah, Mahmud al-Fa'uri, Yusuf 'Akrush, Muhammad Faris Ramadan, and Mansur al-Duqus.

Ma'daba: Dr Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi, Dr 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Khashanibah, Su'ud Qubaylat, Eng Ahmad Qutaysh, Eng Michel Masannat, Eng George Haddaddin, Eng Shafiq Zawayidah, Dr Mustafa Hamarinah, Samih al-Farah, Kamil al-Masarwah, Dr Hashim Haddadin, and Sanad Haddadin.

[Text] Irbid: Zhuqan al-Hindawi, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, Dr Hasan Khurays, Dr Nabih Mu'ammar, Dr Trad al-Qadi, Jamal 'Ubaydat, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, Ahmad al-Kawfahi, Dr Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r, Dr Qasim 'Ubaydat, Lawyer Najib al-Rushaydat, Dr Salih Irshaydat, Al-Haj Zaki al-Tal, 'Abdallah al-Hindawi, Muhammad Ahmad Salim, Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, Dr Matar 'Awwad, Lawyer Muslih al-'Azzat, Muhammad Bashir al-Ghzawi, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-'Umari, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid Nusayr, Khalil al-Subayhi, Bilal Hasan al-Tal, 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur, Lawyer Ahmad Tubayshat, Lawyer Salim Hatamilah, Dr Walid Khazar, Muhammad Salim al-Rawsan, Dr Radwan al-Jarrah, Dr Dhib Marji, Fahmi al-'Abidi, 'Isam al-Sa'di, Ahmad Jaradat, Ghazi Bani-Hani, Dr 'Umar Qasrawi, Farid Nasif, Mahmud al-Bashir, Lawyer Rizq al-Batayinah, Nadir al-Kayid, Muhammad al-Bashabishah, Ibrahim Samarah, Kamil al-'Umari, Mansur al-Batayinah, Samir Khurays, Nabil al-Dalqamuni, Mustafa Jaradat, Dr Anwar al-Shubul, 'Abd-al-Ghafur Hijazi, Majid al-Simrayn, 'Abd-al-Karim Jaradat, Ghazi 'Ababinah, Salih Shunnaq, Sami Khasawinah, Yusuf al-Tal, Lawyer Salim Haddad, 'Isam Hatamilah, Ibrahim al-'Azzam, Dr Husni al-Shiyyab, Eng 'Atiyah Bani-Hani, Lawyer Talal al-'Umari, Dr Salim 'Alawinah, Mahmud al-Sa'di, Dr 'Aida al-Mutlaq, Samihah al-Tal, and Fayiz al-Nimri.

'Ajlun: Engineer Khalid al-Qudat, Falah al-Qudat, Lawyer Hasan al-Mawmani, Lawyer 'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat, Lawyer Ma'n al-Khuza'i, Dr Ahmad al-Qudat, Hamdan al-Qudat, Jamil al-Qarshi, Dr Ahmad 'Innab, Dr Salim al-Samadi,'Ali al-Amin al-Mawmani, Mustafa Bani-Khadr, Dr Farah Ibrahim al-Rabadi, Dr Farah al-Musa al-Rabadi, Ghassan al-Rabadi, Hilal Muqattash, Lawyer Rida Haddad, Mahmud Gharayibah, Nasir al-Rabadi, and Dr Akram Haddad.

Al-Karak: 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Majali, Dr Riyad al-Nawayisah, Hammad al-Ma'ayitah, 'Asir al-Majali, Dr Riyad al-Hurub, Eng 'Arif al-Tarawinah, 'Utaywi al-Majali, Dr Hani Hijazin, Ahmad al-Kafawin, 'Awad al-Kharshah, Al-Haj Mamduh al-Sarayirah, 'Abdallah Ghanim Zurayqat, Lawyer Sabri al-Rawashidah, Ibrahim al-Nawayisah, Jamal al-Sarayirah, Salih al-Mahadin, Dr Shahir al-Rawashidah, Eng Khalaf al-Huwari, Dr 'Isa al-Qusus, Pharmacist Khalil al-Qatarinah, Khulayf al-Mawajidah, Dr 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Qudat, Lawyer Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, 'Abdallah al-Dumur, Engineer 'Abd-al-Razzaq Abu-al-Villat, Muhammad Khulayf al-Habashinah, Engineer 'Arif al-Tarawinah, Faris al-Sayyagh, Ma'yuf al-Habashinah, Lawyer Husayn al-Kharshah, Lawyer Duwai' Haddadin, Dr Saliba Baqa'in, Dr Ziyad al-Shamayilah, 'Abdallah al-Madadhah, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-'Ashush, Mikha'il al-Hurani, Mufrih al-Ma'aitah, Dr Mustafa 'Alawi, Muhamad al-Qatarinah, 'Abdallah al-Majali, Dr Nazih 'Ammarin, Lawyer Mustafa al-'Adayilah, Lawyer Samih Habashinah, 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-'Asasifah, Salih al-Ramadin, Jamil al-'Ashush, Ahmad al-Dhunaybat, Khalil al-Qusus, and Lawyer Yusuf Mubaydin.

Ma'an: Yusuf al-'Azm, Sulayman 'Arar, Brigadier General (retired) Muhammad Ibrahim al-Khattab, Ahmad Abu-'Uqlah, Engineer Hisham al-Sharari, Brigadier General (retired) 'Abdallah Rushayd al-Shawbaki, Eng 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Ma'ani, Fakhri 'Abd-al-Ghani, Muhammad Badi' al-Dayim, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaramisah, Eng Muhammad al-Talhuni, Brigadier General (retired) Muhammad Hantush, 'Adil Shafiq 'Abd-al-Dayim, Jibril Abu-Darwish, Tawfiq Kurayshan, Brigadier General (retired) Ahmad Abu-Dhawabah, Jada'i Kurayshan, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Ziyad al-Shuwaykh, 'Ati Abu-al-'Izz, Nasrat al-Bitar, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Turah, 'Id al-'Alaya, Majid Abu-Faraj, 'Ali Fuhayd, Dr 'Id al-Duhayyat, Dr 'Awad Khulayfat, Dr 'Abdallah Duwayrij, Muhammad Musa al-Shalabi al-Khattab, Dr Mashhur al-Habahibah, Fawzi 'Awjan, 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Assaf, and Dr Nawal Kurayshan.

Southern al-Badiyah: Dr Nayif Muhammad Abu-Tayih, Shaykh Faysal al-Jazi, Dr Sultan Abu-Tayih, 'Awwad Qasim Abu-Tayih, Dr 'Awdah Abu-Taha al-Mara'iyah, Husayn Ibn-Najad, Matruk Abu-Shattal, and 'Id al-Musa.

Interior Minister Chairs Meeting on Elections

JN1708165089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, chaired an expanded meeting this morning at the ministry's conference hall. The meeting was attended by the Public Security director, the Interior Ministry secretary general, governors, the Department of Civil Status director general, and the Directorate of Passports director general.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed the issue of organizing the issuance of individual election cards. It was decided to print new cards, different for each governorate and election constituency. They also discussed how administrative governors will prepare and distribute these cards to citizens at registration centers. This will be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity, with the understanding that these cards will be issued to voters when voter lists are finalized.

During the meeting, the conferees also discussed the issue pertaining to election propaganda campaigns and affirmed the need to abide by the law and consequently to refrain from launching any election propaganda campaigns before the time allocated for these campaigns; that is, not before 25 days preceding the election date.

The conferees also discussed the measures pertaining to the division of constituencies into election districts and balloting centers and stressed the need to allocate balloting centers for females separate from those allocated for casting votes by males.

Problems Facing Medicine Importers Viewed

JN1408091889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[By 'Isa al-Shubul]

[Excerpts] Taysir al-Humsi, the doyen of pharmacists, has warned that medicine importers may have to sell off all the medicines left in their stores, liquidate their businesses and discharge their employees if the medicinal issue is not resolved and if the manufacture, import, and distribution of medicines is not organized in a manner that meets both the interests of consumers and importers.

At a press conference at the pharmacists union yesterday, Al-Humsi said that he had addressed a memo to the prime minister explaining the medicinal situation and the problems of importation and manufacture of medicines in light of the new economic situation. The memo also explains the dimensions of the recent resolution adopted by the Health Ministry in which it specified a list of essential vital medicines which constitute 5 percent of Jordan's imports of medicines, but the ministry failed to take any measures regarding other imported medicines.

He added that medicine importers have reached a dead end and are unable to continue their businesses in light of the decline of the dinar exchange rate against foreign currencies and the effect that has on the cost of imported medicines. He indicated that medicine importers, nevertheless, continued their sales, thus bearing the mounting losses by themselves.

He indicated that imported medicines are sold in Jordan cheaper than in the countries of origin. He said this activated medicine smuggling operations subsidized by the Jordanian medicine importers and at the expense of the Jordanian balance of payments to neighboring markets. [passage omitted]

Al-Humsi proposed an urgent solution by which medicine importers abide by the prices of vital drugs set by the Health Ministry, provided that banks secure the required currencies for them, while other medicines would be priced in accordance with the exchange rate of 820 fils per dollar as specified by the Central Bank of Jordan. [passage omitted]

17 Aug Security Developments Updated

NC1708215289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Syrian occupation forces and the organizations loyal to Syria are maintaining the tension on the combat lines and are continuing to violate the cease-fire which the UN Security Council has called for.

Al-Ashrafiyah is now coming under mortars fire. The Syrians had earlier flared up the situation on the capital's traditional lines from Primo to Ra's al-Nab', the Museum, al-Barbir, al-Tayyunah, Shatila, to al-Laylakah and al-Hadath and bombarded the adjacent Lebanese Army positions. Clashes involving machineguns and mortar fire ensued. A number of shells fell on B'abda at 1945. Al-Hadath also came under tank fire. Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under anitaircraft fire at 2030. The Kasrawan coast has been coming under intermittent shelling since 2340 from the Syrian emplacements in West Beirut. [passage omitted]

To cover up the Syrian occupation forces' practices, the command of al-Khatib army [in West Beirut] said a short time ago that it shelled a maritime target in the eastern area to prevent the arrival of weapons, as it claimed.

More on Overnight Shelling

NC1808084489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces continued their attacks on the eastern area last night with sporadic bouts of violence against various areas. Clashes of varying degrees of intensity occurred along the combat lines. Syrian artillery deployed in 'Aynturah in al-Matn, 'Uyun al-Ruhban, and al-Mughithi began bombarding coastal Kasrawan at 2345 last night. After about 1 hour, the Syrians fired rockets at the same area. Syrian artillery in West Beirut joined in the shelling of the same area at 0230 today. This shelling continued intermittently until after 0300. The night shelling of the Kasrawan coast caused several casualties among the citizens. Among the casualties were three wounded people who were taken to Sayyidat Lubnan Hospital. The shelling of the same area earlier yesterday martyred the child Marina Najib al-Nar and injured several others.

Meanwhile, al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and al-Hadath were targets of sporadic bombardment as of midnight. Clashes also occurred on the confrontation lines of the market area, Ra's al-Nab', the Museum, al-Tayyunah, Dar al-Kitab, Galerie Sim'an, Hayy al-Amirkan, al-Hadath, al-Laylakah, Kafr Shima, al-Shuwayfat, Basba, and al-Ma'rufiyah. Fighting also took place on the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat combat lines in the Mountain. The clashes on the Museum-al-Barbir and al-Tayyunah lines continued raging until approximately 0720 this morning. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting.

[In a Beirut-datelined item at 0828 GMT on 18 August, Paris AFP in English states, "Two people were killed and 14 wounded in fighting overnight, making them the first casualties since the United Nations call for a cease-fire on Tuesday, police said Friday." The item later adds, "One person was killed and eight wounded in East Beirut, while one was killed and six wounded in West Beirut, police said."]

Shells Hit Maritime Target

NC1808083089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The National Front's military operations room and the army command in Beirut declared last night that their artillery shelled a maritime target that was heading for the port of Juniyah shortly before midnight last night. The military operations room affirmed that the target received direct hits.

2 Amal Personnel Wounded

NC1808110489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The areas of al-Barbir and the Arab University came under artillery shelling from the positions held by the al-Yarzah army [General Michel 'Awn's army] this morning. Meanwhile, tension continues to prevail on the combat lines in the capital and its southern suburb and the mountain.

In the meantime, the guidance directorate of the army command in Beirut [Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib's command] issued a statement today, saying: For 2 days running today, the al-Yarzah command continued to violate the cease-fire. This command's artillery intermittently shelled the residential areas in Beirut and its southern suburb and some villages in the mountain and al-Biqa' throughout the night of Thursday-Friday, 17-18 August. Our forces' positions in the areas of al-'Ijjah, Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, the commercial markets, and Starco have also come under machinegun fire. Two military men sustained various wounds. Therefore, our forces were compelled to retaliate to silence the sources of the gunfire.

Lebanese-Syrian Clashes Reported 18 Aug

NC1808105989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes between Lebanese Army positions and the positions of the Syrian occupation army at al-Madfun checkpoint have been taking place since 1200 today. Meanwhile the Jubayl area is being hit by sporadic shelling.

Israeli Flights Reported

NC1808111289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew mid-altitude sorties over southern Lebanon and the coastal areas this morning.

10,000 Syrian Troops Said Mobilized

NC1808121289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that Syria has mobilized about 10,000 troops along four fronts facing the Christian enclave. The agency adds that these forces are reinforced by approximately 100 Soviet-made T-62 and T-54 tanks, rocket launchers, and long-range artillery.

REUTER also cites medical sources in Sidon as saying that typhoid, diarrhea, and fever have spread among the evacuees from Beirut and its suburbs who had moved to the bank of a river in the south and to the Sidon shore.

French Envoy Arrives in Beirut; Meets Al-Huss

NC1708170289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] French Minister Alain Decaux has in fact arrived in Beirut this afternoon and began his contacts by meeting with Dr Salim al-Huss.

Al-Huss on Naval Presence

NC1808103989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpts] French envoy to Lebanon Alain Decaux has been meeting with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr since 1200 today. Decaux is accompanied by French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a political source in Beirut has stated that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss emphasized to Decaux yesterday that the presence of French naval vessels off the Lebanese shores can only lead to more of General 'Awn's intransigence. The source added that Prime Minister al-Huss expressed surprise that at least four French ships would be deployed in the east Mediterranean if France does not intend to intervene militarily.

On his part, the French envoy, who has been declining to make statements to journalists since his arrival in Beirut, affirmed to Prime Minister al-Huss and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni that France does not intend to intervene but that it is concerned about the fate of all Lebanese, according to AFP.

'Awn Receives Envoy

NC1808095889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a 2-hour meeting in B'abda Palace with French Envoy Alain Decaux, who was accompanied by French Ambassador Rene Ala. Gen 'Awn later received Acting Iraqi Charge d'Affaires 'Isam Jasim. Our B'abda correspondent Christian Usi has provided these details.

[Begin Usi recording] Alain Decaux, French minister delegate for francophone affairs and international cultural relations, has expressed hope that the current moves will achieve positive results. He announced that French Ambassador Rene Ala will hold a news conference after Decaux leaves the Lebanese capital at which he will explain the results of all his activities in Beirut. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Awn Requests UN To Send Observers

NC1808080289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] AFP has reported that yesterday Ambassador Shawqi Shuwayri, Lebanese delegate to the United Nations, orally conveyed a request from Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to send international observers to Lebanon.

Lebanese, Palestinian Figures at Meeting Named

JN1608202489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Lebanon's nationalist and Islamic parties and factions of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] have convened a meeting in Damascus sponsored by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The meeting was attended by the PNSF delegation led by [former] Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahim, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command delegation led by the front's Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah Forces delegation led by Muhammad Khalifah, the Fatah-Provisional Command delegation led by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party delegation under 'Arabi 'Awwad, the Amal Movement delegation under Minister Nabih Birri, the Progressive Socialist Party delegation led by Minister Walid Junblatt, the Hizballah delegation under Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the Islamic Unification Movement delegation led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, Lebanon's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by 'Asim Qansuh, Lebanon's Communist Party delegation under George Hawi, the Syrian Social National Party delegation-the Higher Council under Dawud Baz, the Syrian Social National Party delegation-the Emergency Command under 'Isam al-Mahayiri, the Workers' Asscociation delegation under deputy Zahir al-Khatib, the Islamic 'Ulema Grouping delegation led by Shaykh Mahir Hammud, the Islamic Group delegation under Muharram al-'Arifi, the Al-Biqa' 'Ulema Grouping delegation led by Dr 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar, the Arab Democratic Party delegation under Suhayl Hamadah, the Nasirite Unionists Movement delegation under Al-Sayyid Sabbagh, the Islamic Grouping Movement delegation under Sa'd-al-Din Hamidi Saqr, the Syrian Socialist Labor Party delegation led by Husayn Hamdan, and the Popular Nasirite Organization delegation under Fayyad Haydar.

The conferees deliberated on the current developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas, with a special accent on the Lebanese situation. [passage omitted]

Press Criticizes 'Awn's Cease-Fire Response

JN1808102489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Cease-Fire Is Not a Truce for Armament", AL-BA'TH says: Those who want to impose death and destruction on Lebanon are using techniques of such deception and heresy that certain facts, which the entire world had already accepted, have now taken on new and contradictory meanings.

AL-BA'TH says: When the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for an end to the Lebanese fighting, Michel 'Awn produced an extremely contradictory statement that he is for a cease-fire but not for halting his destructive war, and that he is for the UN Security Council's resolution but he rejects the main precondition which is stopping the flow of arms to the warring factions in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: While Michel 'Awn insists on distorting the truth, we do not think his agreement to halt the Lebanese fighting has resulted from the need to save Lebanon—homeland and citizens—especially as he insists on his belief that the Syrian Army is a party to the conflict. 'Awn has ignored one clear fact; namely, that at least ¾ of the Lebanese people are against him. They reject him just as they reject the Zionist presence in southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH continues: There is no doubt that 'Awn knows deep in his heart he is lying when he accuses the Army, which defeated the Zionist forces in the October war, of fighting him. Of course, 'Awn is implementing a major scheme which is primarily aimed at rearranging the affairs of the region in accordance with the Zionist viewpoint. The cease-fire in Lebanon is a Lebanese demand just as it is an Arab and a world demand. Peace in Lebanon is essential to the pan-Arab strategy. But making Lebanon a gateway or an arsenal for weapons is totally rejected, because that is part of the great conspiracy against Arab rights and gives the Zionists the time they need.

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "The Required Mechanism," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The cease-fire requires, first and foremost, a mechanism to organize and maintain it effectively as well as to prevent the flow of arms to the Zionized isolationist clique to deprive it of any opportunity.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Events in Lebanon have shown that imposing a cease-fire without something to protect it will not bring about any result serving Lebanon and its national issues, especially since the Zionized cliques are indifferent to the Lebanese people's sufferings. These cliques only want to prolong political sectarianism, while they themselves are responsible for the destruction in Lebanon. What 'Awn and his clique are peddling is designed to give them time and a breathing space to carry out a more dangerous escalation in order to destroy Lebanon and implement the plans of Israel, the sole beneficiary from prolonging the Lebanese crisis. Therefore, the cease-fire, which is accepted nationally and which serves Lebanon's interests and issues, is the one that is effective and forms an approach toward political reforms that equate all Lebanese.

AL-THAWRAH adds: A solution to the Lebanese crisis can only be achieved through political reforms which guarantee equal rights and duties for all Lebanese people and make national accord a basic foundation for setting

up constitutional institutions. Based on the facts on Lebanon's land, the fact is emphasized that 'Awn is dreaming if he believes he can go ahead with his conspiracy endlessly, especially after Israel has carried out its intentions in Lebanon. The situation now must include putting a final and definite end to the Zionized isolationist cliques, the Israeli aggression, and all forces hostile to Lebanon and its Arabism and national issues.

Press Reiterates State's Position on Lebanon

JN1608085089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The tragedy of some Arab diplomatic circles is that they suffer from inability to distinguish between reality and desire and between facts and illusions. This disturbed vision has produced unrealistic trends and calls based on assumptions, wishes, and even illusions. Among the illusions existing in the minds of some sides is the possibility of affecting Syria through organizing intensified campaigns of slander, instigation, and pressure, and crystallizing a situation to force this country to abandon its principled stands toward the pan-Arab cause in general and the Palestine question and the situation in Lebanon in particular.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If the United States, Western Europe, and Israel have failed to affect Syria's course, then it is an axiom that a handful of small agents, who are deprived of their will, will not be able to achieve what their masters could not achieve, especially since Syria now is stronger than previously.

AL-THAWRAH adds Capitulation will not pass in the Arab homeland, and the Zionist-isolationist scheme will not materialize in Lebanon. The Israeli state of affairs that has produced an abnormal situation in this country must end. All those who linked their destinies with this state of affairs and placed themselves at the disposal of Zionism and its overt and covert agents in the region will also end with it.

Under the headline "The Suq al-Gharb Battle Is a Qualitative Reply by the Nationalist Forces," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Suq al-Gharb battle has proved that the red lines claimed by the isolationists are merely illusions, because the Lebanese people's will, under their nationalist and struggler forces, is the only red line that the agents of 'Awn's clique, isolationists, and Zionists cannot penetrate. This will will escalate, grow, and be entrenched until the Lebanese people, through the sacrifices they are offering against all the attempts to confiscate their natural right, are able to build their future and determine their destiny on entrenched and firm bases.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: From this premise, and as President Hafiz al-Asad stresses, Syria will not allow the defeat of the nationalist forces that are struggling for the sake of Lebanon's unity and Arabism and resisting the Israeli occupation.

Under the headline "The Lebanese People Defend Their Legitimate Right," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: 'Awn and his fascist, Zionist, and imperialist supporters want the nationalist forces to lay down their arms, the people to abandon their call for reform, and Syria to withdraw its forces so that the field will be free for the Zionists, so that Lebanon will fall into the hands of the minority allying with them, and so that the Lebanese people will submit to the Zionist scheme.

AL-BA'TH adds: However, what the Lebanese people and nationalists want, and what the Arab nation's interests necessitate regarding its security and existence, are not the concern of the imperialist circles and those who revolve in their orbit. However, we stress in words and deeds that they concern us, as Arabs.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: As a stand that knows no compromise, Arab Syria, that has saved Lebanon from all the stages of the conspiracy it has so far passed through, will continue its role in saving Lebanon and supporting its people and their nationalist forces, and in defending Arab security against all threats regardless of their size and the evil forces' efforts to escalate these threats.

Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Interviewed

PM0908114289 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Aug 89 p 3

[Unattributed interview with General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Syrian Army and the Armed Forces; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-BA'TH: Talking about the Army leads us to an urgent question on the issue of strategic parity between us and the Zionist enemy: What have we achieved so far in that regard?!

General al-Shihabi: First of all, it must be stressed that in principle the strategic parity issue should not concern Syria alone. It is known that the Arab nation as a whole is a target for the Zionist enemy—and events, as well as the wars, and aggressive raids carried out by the enemy confirm this.

When Syria stressed the need to achieve strategic parity and worked for it, it did so not because it is a frontline state, but because it proceeds from its principled stand, its clear objectives, and its belief that all efforts must be directed toward the battle, whether political, military, or economic. This is so because, as you know, strategic

parity is an integrated task at all levels—military, economic, social, and cultural—and not, as has previously been said, merely a gun against another or an aircraft against another!

Since the corrective movement began, and during the October liberation war, we have always hastened to intensify and develop Arab efforts, from Arab solidarity through the attainment of strategic parity with the enemy. Our stances and appeals have always been clear and frank at all meetings and talks at all levels, from agricultural conferences to summit conferences. We know that the Arabs' salvation lies only in their unity and solidarity. But if there are any backtracking, reservations, or laxity on anyone's part, it will not impede our determination or deter us from our objectives, including that of achieving strategic parity. What I can confidently say is that we are satisfied with what we have achieved in that regard. But this does not excuse all the Arabs from performing their duty in that field. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: The Lebanese crisis is worsening despite the Arab solutions proposed and the efforts being exerted by the tripartite committee formed by the recent summit conference. The isolationist clique is escalating its aggression against and haphazard shelling of residential areas... and our Armed Forces are there in their pan-Arab mission to protect the fraternal country's unity and independence. How would you assess the nature and scale of that crisis and our Armed Forces' task in Lebanon at present?

Gen al-Shihabi: The scale of the Lebanese crisis is clear. It has been thoroughly studied and assessed by all local, Arab, and international quarters. The worsening of the crisis—at a time when everyone is expecting it to head toward an objective, peaceful solution—is clearly attributable to the isolationist clique's crazy escalation by shelling the national areas and inflicting further human and material losses so as to obstruct all sincere pan-Arab and national efforts to extricate the fraternal country from the vicious circle of war, destruction, and disintegration.

The isolationists do not want a united Lebanon. In fact they want it to be the prisoner of a minority seeking exclusive possession of all privileges at the expense of the homeland's and citizens' rights.

As for our Armed Forces on the fraternal country's territory, the whole world now knows that they entered in response to a legitimate request from the Lebanese authorities and masses. They have been carrying out their noble pan-Arab task for years, making further sacrifices to enable Lebanon to restore its unity, its health, and its effective civilizing role within the united Arab ranks. All fair-minded people know that our forces' presence there has prevented partitioning and the complete collapse of that green country which is being torn between the isolationist desires of domination and Israeli schemes of aggression and expansion. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: With regard to our battle with the Zionist enemy, do you believe that the military option is our only option?!

Gen al-Shihabi: On the first day of the October liberation war Comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad said in his historic address to the Arab nation that we are not murder- and destruction-mongers: We are defending our territory and rights.

This means that we are not warmongers, nor do we promote war. We have rights... just rights, and our cause is clear. We will not forfeit our rights. We are seeking to recover them through every legitimate and possible means, including diplomatic means as well as the military option.

We have been engaged in a showdown battle for more than 40 years, during which the reason for the military option has been Zionist aggression on Arab territory and our Arab people in Palestine and in the other neighboring areas.

In addition to the military option, many other efforts have been made at all levels and in all international political forums. But despite all this, and despite the fact that the entire world has condemned the Zionist aggression, nevertheless such condemnations have proved ineffective in practice. This is why our Arab people in the occupied territory have remained engaged in a daily confrontation for over 40 years—a confrontation which has escalated over 18 months into an all-out intifadah [uprising].

And if the Syrian Arab state is in a direct confrontation with the enemy, and if it has the honor to stand on the frontline to defend the nation's honor and dignity, this does not relieve any Arab from performing his pan-Arab duty in that battle. This, because the enemy's expansionist schemes are aimed at the territory of the entire Arab homeland. So the Arab nation is forced to engage in a real confrontation with the enemy and to use all its weapons in that confrontation until the usurped land is liberated and until rights are restored to their true and legitimate owners. We have no option but to remain alert and develop our forces and capabilities in a confrontation with an enemy that rejects the requirements of a just peace and still persistently continues to implement its schemes of aggression, expansion, and settlement.

Afghanistan

Envoy to India Renews Threat To Bomb Pakistan

BK1808005489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1818 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 17 (AFP)—Afghanistan on Thursday threatened aerial strikes inside Pakistan to wipe out stores of mujahidin armaments, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Kabul's acting consul general in Bombay, Nisar Ahmed, said the government of President Najibullah was considering a retaliatory strike with Soviet-supplied MiG-29 jets on Pakistani ordnance depots which store rockets used by the mujahidin to attack the Afghan capital.

"At present the extremists daily shell tens of surface-to-surface rockets on Kabul resulting in the death of a large number of people," PTI quoted Mr. Ahmed as saying.

"If the Pakistani military continue to support and equip these extremists to shell rockets on Kabul civilians, it would be the reserved right of the Republic of Afghanistan to launch rockets on the centres of Pakistan where they get armed," he said.

Protest Handed to Pakistani Charge 17 Aug

LD1808080389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 17, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy to Kabul was summoned here today to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and a strong protest of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the violations and aggressions of Pakistani authorities with the persuading of policy of state terrorism and trampling under feet all its commitments in regard to the Geneva accords, and possessed broader dimensions was conveyed to him by the care-taker of the First Political Department of that ministry. [sentence as received]

It was indicated to the charge d'affaires that the authorities responsible for the security of the country have reported that the extremists in accomplice with the Pakistani authorities fired one hundred and twenty one rockets on residential areas of Kabul city from August 8-15 killing nineteen civilians and wounding seventy others. Sixteen residential houses were destroyed and three vehicles damaged as a result of the said rocket attacks as well.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan while expressing a strong protest in regard to these clear Pakistani violations and aggressions, which are obvious examples of Pakistan's state terrorism announces that the grave consequences of this policy lie fully upon Pakistani authorities.

French Aid Worker, Rebels Killed in Ambush

BK1808120089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 18 (AFP)—A French worker for the aid organisation Handicap International and at least 12 mujahidin guerrillas have been killed in an ambush in Afghanistan, reliable sources said Friday.

Vincent Gernigon, whose age and home town were not immediately available, was killed Tuesday near Marja, south of Lashkar Gah in southwest Helmand province, the sources in Islamabad and the Pakistani city of Quetta said.

First reports said 12 guerrillas belonging to the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction were also killed but sources close to the rebels in Quetta said the ambush had left a total of 14 dead—13 mujahidin and one foreigner.

These sources quoted a brief telex by a guerrilla commander, Naik Mohammad, to Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Jamiyat political leader, reporting the ambush and the toll but without giving any details of the dead foreigner.

"On August 15, 1989, after an ambush laid by the enemy in Helmand province, 13 mujahidin became martyrs and a transport vehicle was captured. A foreigner was also killed in the vehicle," the message reportedly said.

According to some reports, a second Frenchman was travelling with the group but his fate was unknown.

There were conflicting reports on who was responsible for the ambush.

Some sources said Kabul government troops had staged the attack, but the Afghan sources in Quetta said troops were not active in the region and the ambush may have been the work of members of the Wahhabi sect.

The Wahhabis, backed by Saudi Arabia, have been involved in the mujahidin's 10-year war against the Soviet-backed Afghan Government but are strongly opposed to the resistance accepting aid from Western countries.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami is one of seven Sunni Muslim resistance groups based in Pakistan.

Various sources said the bodies of the ambush victims would be repatriated to Pakistan by Saturday. A French consular official was expected to arrive in Quetta, near the Afghan border, Saturday morning.

Officials of Handicap International at the group's branch in Quetta declined to comment on the incident.

The group works with physically handicapped victims of the Afghan conflict in several areas of the country. It has offices in Brussels, Paris and Lyons.

A number of Western humanitarian organizations work with victims of the Afghan conflict and some carry out regular missions inside the country.

TIMES Cited on U.S. Envoy's 'Gigantic Task'

LD1708105489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 17 Aug 89

[All quotation remarks as received]

[Text] Kabul, August 16, BAKHTAR—The administration of the USA which has not officially recognized the so-called "transitional government of opposition", formed earlier in Rawalpindi, has sent its special envoy to this "government" which some of the anti-Afghan [words indistinct] call him the ambassador". He flares up the disgust and repugnance of Afghans, says a commentary published by daily KABUL TIMES in its latest issue.

He considers, however, negotiation and political solution to be essential, but initially he stresses that the present Afghan government should be overthrown as a prerequisite for the political settlement of the Afghan issue. It seems as if Mr. Tomsen has neither exactly identified the belligerent forces at war in Afghanistan nor has he read the documents of the Geneva accords. Surprisingly he still reiterates as a parrot the previous puffs and magniloquence of the "Alliance of Seven" who claims that nearly ninety percent of Afghan territory is under their control. It is rather amazing, why nobody has inquired yet. If that is true then, why in this ninety per cent territory under their control "transitional government" can not find any place and headquarters for itself, says the commentary.

The confession of Mr. Tomsen in an interview with the radio "Voice of America" created another ambiguity for Americans. He said, "we persuade the "transitional government" to get in close contact with commanders inside Afghanistan and to reach an understanding with them and, thus, broaden the base of the "government".

From this statement of Mr. Tomsen another important matter can be revealed that is, there is neither a contact and understanding among the commanders of the opposition groups inside Afghanistan nor among the heads of the "transitional government". At present, Mr. Thompson is trying to establish such a contact.

Obviously, he is assigned to perform a gigantic task, under the present condition which bloody conflicts are going on among the members of the "transitional government", and the "rehabilitation minister" calls the "foreign minister" a criminal and murderer and asks for his expulsion from the "transitional government". Thus the "president" is also accused of being biased on his personal interest. It is quite obvious that Mr Tomsen will not be able to broaden the "base" of the illegitimate government, stated the commentary.

Another way to extend the base of the "government" in view of Mr Tomsen, is to include the "Alliance of Eight" in its composition. Playing at chess, Mr. Tomsen does not exactly know which pawn should be moved forward and where to convert it to a minister. Well, the number of cabinet members is fix. Mr. Tomsen does not know that, in this game, there are lots of pawns in front of him anxiously waiting to become a minister, and even if he selects four ministers and deputy ministers for each ministry there still a large number will be dreaming to acquire the minister post.

He emphatically speaks on the downfall of Dr. Najibullah's regime. Sometimes he sceptically asks himself, well, if it remains in power till next year, then what?

He says that mojahideen should know that the USA and Pakistan will continue to support them so that they perform their duty.

Kabul Garrison Warns Against New Rocket

LD1808064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 17, BAKHTAR—A rocket hit one of the residential areas of Kabul city, on Wednesday paved anti-personnel mines, which is going to be exploded by touching, says the announcement by Kabul Garrison released here today.

The U.S. official sources had earlier promised the murderers of the Afghan people for furnishing them with new weapons, recalls the announcement.

Thus, the announcement has called on the countrymen to keep off from an area which is hit by such a rocket until the affected area is cleared from the presence of such mines. The children are also advised not to touch the pieces of such mines which are in the form of pen, watches, toys, and other items.

BAKHTAR Details Recent Military Operations

LD1708104889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 16, BAKHTAR—An authorised military source said here that the joint enemy forces supported by the artillery units of the 11th Pakistani Corps attacked Armed Forces positions and residential areas around Jalalabad, administrative centre of Nangarhar Province, during the past 24 hours. Three members of the armed forces were wounded in the attacks. The source added that during the retaliatory attacks of the armed forces 22 criminals were killed and 31 others wounded.

A set of Sacker-20, two sets of missile, 3 recoilless guns, 2 heavy-machine guns, 4 mortars, 6 rocket launchers and 2 armaments depots of the enemy were destroyed.

A member of the Armed Forces was killed and another wounded as a result of the attacks of the enemy in Paktia and Qandahar provinces as well as Khowst Grand District. The artillery forces responded attacks of the enemies killed 22 and wounded 36 other criminals. [sentence as received]

One hundred and fifty mortar shells, 5 rockets and 15 cases of bullets fell at the hand of the armed forces.

Fighting in Provinces, Kabul

LD1808063589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 17 BAKHTAR—As a result of the crushing blows of the Armed Forces 25 armed extremists, supported by Pakistan, were killed and large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed during the past 24 hours.

An authorised military source said that the joint enemy forces attacked security posts and residential areas around Jalalabad city by long-range missiles. A member of the armed forces was injured. The detachments of the Armed Forces retaliated. Twenty five enemies were killed and 41 others wounded.

Reports reached from Qandahar and Herat Provinces and that of Khowst Grand District say that during the operations of the Armed Forces 33 extremists were killed and 26 others wounded in the said provinces.

Furthermore over 14-kg explosives and three mines and fuses for explosion were discovered and defused by the state security organs today around Kabul city, reported BIA military correspondent.

The extremists, on the basis of US-Pakistan state terrorism plans, planted explosives around Kabul city intend to hide it in a densely populated area in Kabul city for explosion. But the devilish plot of the extremists was spoiled on time by the security organs with the direct cooperation of inhabitants of that region.

Mujahidin Kabul Regional Commander Interviewed

PM1708141489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 89 p 5

[Interview with mujahidin commander 'Abdul Haq, "field commander of the Kabul region," by Ahmad Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad Zaydan] Numerous sources have reported the resumption of disputes between the ruling Marxist party, the People's Party, and the two Khalq and Parcham wings. What are the reasons for that, and do you have any detailed information about the dispute?

['Abdul Haq] It is known that the dispute between the two groups is old. It has existed since the establishment of the Communist Party in 1965. They were reconciled only for a few months following the Soviet withdrawal. But the dispute between them resurfaced when Defense Minister Tanay, who belongs to Khalq, affirmed that military reinforcements around Kabul were sufficient to prevent the mujahidin from hitting important positions inside the capital or penetrating its defenses. But Najibullah was surprised when his presidential palace was hit by the mujahidin's missiles. So he was angry and summoned the defense minister and requested him to launch Scud missiles against mujahidin positions. But the latter did not reply to Najibullah, so he called him again. The third time, he sent some people to arrest those who were with Tanay and to reproach him. But the latter opened fire on them, which caused tension in relations between the two sides. The dispute began to assume the form of the old conflict. Khalq is led by Tanay and Parcham is led by Najibullah, who arrested 303 Khalq members, a move that resulted in bloody confrontations between the two sides. I have learned from sources in Kabul that a secret intelligence group (KHAD) has moved Tanay to unknown place. In fact, I discount the story of an aborted coup attempt in Kabul. Western diplomats' reports in this regard are inaccurate.

I must stress that the disputes between the wings of the Communist Party are far more than mujahidin disputes. The mujahidin have never killed their senior leaders, as happened in the Communist Party when Taraki and Amin were murdered. Besides, the problems among the communists are profound and at a high level, but mujahidin disputes are isolated and at a low level.

[Zaydan] What is your opinion of a plan relying on a military coup against the regime followed by the transfer of power to the mujahidin?

[Haq] If a military coup occurs and the mujahidin know about it, then it must coincide with mujahidin moves from outside the capital. And the civilians supporting them must be mobilized. Frankly, I cannot rely completely on the officers or leave everything to them, though I do have friends and supporters among them. I must also issue a strong call for civil disobedience and and the severance of military supply routes to the city.

[Zaydan] How would you assess the military situation around Kabul?

[Haq] There is close coordination among mujahidin groups in supplies and participation in the operations. And I believe coordination is at its best around Kabul.

[Zaydan] There have been reports of the Soviet forces' return to the country. What truth is there in this?

[Haq] I rule out the Soviets' return. But Soviet advisers and experts are returning with advanced weapons.

[Zaydan] What about the mujahidin's shortage of arms and ammunition?

[Haq] We began to suffer that after the Soviets completed their withdrawal. And I personally noticed and heard from the mujahidin that the Pakistani Government is purchasing arms and ammunition, especially the effective BM-2 shells used by the mujahidin and mortar shells. But I do not know whether it is buying them to distribute among the mujahidin or to keep them.

Mojadeddi: Hekmatyar Obstructs Investigations

LD1808031189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, head of the interim government of Afghanistan's alliance of seven, announced that if Golbuddin Hekmatyar obstructs

the course of investigations concerning the murder of the commanders of Afghanistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami, he will forfeit his membership in the coalition government.

Mujahidin Spokesman on Takhar Incident, USSR

AU1708150389 Vienna KURIER in German 17 Aug 89 p 5

[Report on interview with Mas'ud Khalili, foreign policy spokesman of the Islamic Afghan Association, by Otto Klambauer: "The Kremlin Has Not Ended the War in Afghanistan"; date, place not given]

[Text]—On the hostilities among the resistance fighters: A commander of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party in Takhar Province attacked a group of front commanders on 4 July, killing 31 people. The incident, which, unfortunately, is not an isolated case, took place during a very sensitive period and in a strategic region. —On the consequences: The interim government must carry out an investigation and Hekmatyar must turn over the killers. If Hekmatyar is willing to this, it is a good sign. If he refuses, the front commanders will make a decision. However, commander Mas'ud is wise enough not to answer blood with blood. —On the danger of the alliance breaking apart: The attack took place in a province that borders the Soviet Union. The Soviets are very close, very committed, the KGB is very active and the network of the secret service of the puppets (of the Kabul regime) is also very active. Numerous people are involved in dirty business. However, cooperation (among resistance fighters) is very good in many regions in Afghanistan. —On the missile attack on Kabul: The regime is using the civilian population as a "protection wall." We have reduced our attacks on Kabul to a minimum—nearly to zero! The civilians are our allies—we would never have succeeded in defeating the Russians without their help! I do not say that we do not use any missiles at all against Kabul. However, we always make sure that the missiles hit military targets and not civilian ones!

Last year witnesses observed Soviets firing missiles from Soviet bases in order to place the mujahidin in a bad light! The puppet regime has copied the Soviets in many ways. Also, numerous missiles are fired from regions that are not controlled by us! —On the war in Afghanistan: In 1985-86 there was exaggerated pessimism. At the time, Gorbachev tried to solve the Afghanistan problem by military means. When we beat the Soviets, exaggerated optimism prevailed. However, it was naive to believe that the regime would fall within a few weeks. —On the future: The mujahidin must change their strategy—from a guerrilla war to a conventional offensive war. This requires time. The mujahidin faced this problem during the attack on Jalalabad, and there was also insufficient coordination. The Kremlin has not ended its war in Afghanistan—it has only withdrawn its soldiers! The Soviets continue to massively supply the regime with weapons—worth $2 billion—and money in order to keep it in power for a limited period. For this reason, the mujahidin will still need a lot of help and advice from outside!

Bangladesh

OBSERVER Details Attempt on Hasina's Life

BK1608135689 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Aug 89 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] A group of armed men on Thursday [10 AugustS] midnight opened fire at Dhanmondi residence of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman where Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was holding an organisational meeting. None was, however, injured in the incident. The armed men riding two auto-rickshaws opened several rounds of gun fire at the house where Sheikh Hasina also reside, sources said.

The attackers also threw some crackers and three grenades, of which two exploded. One unexploded grenade has been recovered by the police, according to party sources. Several bullet holes have been created on the walls of the Dhanmondi residence of Hasina.

When the armed men fired at the house, the policemen on duty at the house also returned several rounds of fire. The attackers fled the scene as soon as the police opened fire.

Meanwhile, the city unit of Awami League held a meeting in front of party central office on Friday to protest the incident. Awami League and its front organisations brought out processions in the city on Friday afternoon protesting and condemning the heinous incident. The party workers were chanting slogans against Freedom Party.

They set ablaze four vehicles including a BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] bus, one police jeep, one private car and a corporation microbus at different places in the city.

The police have filed a suo motto case with Dhanmondi police in this connection. Awami League has also recorded another case. Police patrol has been strengthened in Dhanmondi area.

There was, however, no arrest till Friday evening. The attackers were six or seven in number, according to police sources. Senior police officials visited the spot soon after the incident.

BSS adds: The Government has taken security measures for protection of Sheikh Hasina and some other important Awami League leaders, official sources said.

The numbers of guards has been increased at the residence of Sheikh Hasina, they added.

Meanwhile, unruly mobs burnt and damaged 22 vehicles in the city throughout the day.

Of these, 12 vehicles were damaged in the Dhaka University area while 10 others, including a BRTC bus, were set on fire in different parts of the city. The motive behind incidents of Thursday night and Friday could not be ascertained [passage omitted]

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has urged all democratic and pro-liberation forces to rise unitedly against "dictators' killers and communal elements" to ensure a democratic rule in the country, reports UNB.

The Awami League chief was addressing a group of party workers who went to meet her at the Bangabandhu Bhaban on Friday evening in celebrating the victory of the Awami League candidate in the Gazipur Pourasava (municipality—FBIS] Chairman election held Thursday.

Hasina said the voice of Awami League can not be stifled by resorting to killing and terrorism. She said since its inception, Awami League has been fighting for the sociopolitical and economic emancipation of the deprived multitudes.

She said despite false campaigns for the last 14 years, the image of late leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League could not be erased from the hearts of the people.

On the contrary, she observed, the Awami League has become more popular as the increasing unflinching support of the cross section of the people clearly demonstrates.

Hasina said the victory in the Gazipur Pourashava election where Awami League leader A.K.M. Mozammel Huq won as the Chairman, once again proved clearly that the Awami League would make a clean sweep everywhere if free and fair polls are ensured.

The Awami League chief alleged that the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were rewarded by a previous government while they were politically rehabilitated by the present regime.

She said that the followers of Bangabandhu had always played a heroic role during all the national crises in the past and hoped that they would again play the same couragous role at this critical juncture of the nation.

She called for a resolute onward march with the present anti-autocracy movement to establish an exploitation-free social system as dreamt by the "Father of the Nation."

Awami League leaders Mohammad Nasim, Matia Chowdhury, Rahmat Ali and M. A. Rashid also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, the newly elected Chairman of Gazipur Pourasava and General Secretary of the Gazipur District Awami League, A.K.M. Mozammel Huq garlanded the portrait of the Bangabandhu and presented a bouquet to Sheikh Hasina.

Iranian Envoy Presents Credentials to Ershad

LD1208164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Dhaka Mohammad Ganji submitted his credentials to Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Saturday.

During the ceremony, President Ershad referred to the Tehran-Dhaka historical and cultural ties and called for further expansion of relations between the two countries.

The president mentioned that various contracts have been signed between the two states for joint cooperation in cultural, political and economic fields.

India

Opposition Leader Accused of Links With U.S.

BK1808031589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The former political aide of Mr V.P. Singh, Syed Ashraf, has alleged that the Janata Dal chief had links with some mysterious officials in the U.S. Embassay in New Delhi and demanded a thorough investigation into the affair. In a memorandum to the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, Mr Ashraf said the investigation is necessary as it concerns national security.

Mr Ashraf had been working with Mr V.P. Singh for the last 2 years since the Janata Dal leader quit the Union Cabinet.

Parliament Debates Singh's 'Links'

BK1808080089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Several Congress-I members in the Lok Sabha today demanded a thorough inquiry into the alleged links of the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, with foreign agencies. Raising the issue during zero hour, they drew the attention of the chair to reports in a section of the press that Mr Singh had written to an unnamed official in the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. Waving photo copies of the report, they said that Mr Singh had written in the letter that he was working on the same lines as that of the mysterious embassy official. This is a serious matter and concerned national security in view of the conspiracies to destabilize the country.

[Speaker] Mr Bal Ram Jakhar told them that the matter should be dealt with according to the views and the members can represent to the Government. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, in a brief intervention said that the government has seen the newspapers report. Any further information on the matter will be given to the house, he added.

Gandhi: No Postponement of Lok Sabha Elections

BK1808085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The prime minister has asserted that the elections to the Lok Sabha will not be postponed and will be held as per the Constitution. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was talking to newsmen today at Bangalore airport on his arrival on a day's visit to Karnataka.

Replying to a question on the debate on television with the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Gandhi made it clear that he had offered such a debate by the government on policies and issues and he still stands by that.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi was received at the airport by the governor, Mr P. Venkata Subaya, and other dignitaries. [passage omitted]

Srinagar Gunfire on Ziaul Haq's Death Anniversary

BK1708162389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 17 (AFP)—Muslim militants exchanged gunfire with security forces and blew up a bus Thursday [17 August] while a general strike they called for the first death anniversary of Pakistan's former president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, crippled parts of Srinagar.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said the strike closed down shops and business establishments for the third day in succession in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority Indian state, which borders Pakistan.

Transport came to a near halt, while banks, government offices and schools and colleges remained closed for a government holiday Thursday, PTI said. The situation in other Muslim areas of the state was not known.

General Ziaul Haq, who ruled Pakistan for 11 years, died in a plane crash on this day last year.

A government official quoted by PTI said two civilians were injured in crossfire between Muslim militants and police in Srinagar's New Fatehkadal area.

In another incident, PTI said an unspecified number of Muslim militants commandeered a bus at gunpoint, ordered the passengers out and blew the bus up near the Kannihama area, a Srinagar suburb. PTI did not report any casualties.

The news agency said a powerful bomb explosion rocked a Muslim leader's house in Srinagar, extensively damaging it and destroying a scooter-taxi which had been parked nearby. No one was wounded.

Muslim mobs also reportedly stoned police in Srinagar's Khanyar District, while another bomb went off at Kangan, 42 kilometers (26 miles) from Srinagar. No casualties were reported.

PTI said unidentified men hurled a petrol bomb at a small hotel in the city late Wednesday and fired at some children, wounding three people.

Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state, where Muslim militants, who New Delhi says are backed by neighbouring Pakistan, have stepped up their secessionist campaign. Pakistan has denied the charge.

PTI said Muslim militants released a large number of black balloons, with photographs of the late Ziaul Haq tied to them, in some residential areas of Srinagar.

Armed police and paramilitary personnel were deployed Thursday throughout the state, which is popular with tourists and often called India's Switzerland because of its hills, valleys and rivers.

Muslim militants burst firecrackers in Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Pakistan's independence day Monday, but called a two-day general strike to protest India's independence anniversary Tuesday.

Some 60 people were wounded in violence in the state Tuesday and Wednesday.

'Maoists Guerrillas' Free Kidnapped Official

BK1808081289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 18 (AFP)—Maoist guerrillas on Friday freed an official they kidnapped two days ago in southern India after the government reportedly agreed to rebuild memorials of two slain rebels.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said K.V.N. Gupta, an official of the opposition-ruled Andhra Pradesh Government who was kidnapped by eight men late Wednesday, returned to his home before dawn Friday. Mr. Gupta was the president of a government-sanctioned village council. He was kidnapped from his home in Mahmoobnagar District late Wednesday by the hardline People's War Group.

The abduction triggered an alarm in the coastal state, where Maoist guerrillas known as Naxalites have carried out similar kidnappings and killed at least one hostage in the past.

PTI said Mr. Gupta's abductors left behind a note addressed to the state government demanding that memorials for two People's War Group members that had been demolished by the police in Mahmoobnagar be rebuilt. The news agency said the government had agreed to reconstruct the memorials within a week.

Naxalites derive their name from Naxalbari, a remote village in eastern India where a peasant rebellion in 1967 broke out and spread throughout the country before it was put down by the government in the mid-1970's. Naxalites subsequently splintered into several groups, but they are still active in some states including Andhra Pradesh.

Sikhs Suspected in Bus Bombing; 4 Killed

BK1808101689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 18 (AFP)—At least four passengers were killed when a bomb planted by suspected Sikh

separatists exploded on a bus near a Hindu shrine in northern India Friday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Seven others were seriously injured in the explosion on the state-owned Punjab Roadways bus at Chintpurni, in Himachal Pradesh State, the news agency said.

It said the bomb went off shortly before the bus, which was coming from Amritsar City in neighbouring Punjab State, reached Chintpurni, the site of a famous Hindu shrine.

Sikh separatists are campaigning for a homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in Punjab. More than 800 people have died in violence linked to the campaign so far this year.

Seventeen people were killed on August 9 when a similar explosion destroyed a government bus in Haryana State, which like Himachal Pradesh is dominated by Hindus and borders Punjab.

6 Terrorists Killed in Punjab Encounters

BK1808032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, six terrorists have been killed in separate encounters, while terrorists shot dead one ASI [assistant inspector] and one constable and seriously injured one person. According to an official spokesman four terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire when a police party escorting another arrested terrorist was ambushed by some unidentified persons in Amritsar District. In Patiala, terrorists shot dead one ASI and one constable on patrol duty last night. In Tarn Taran area, terrorists shot dead and injured another person seriously.

Events in Assam's Violence-Hit Areas Detailed

BK1808033189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The All Bodo Students Union [ABSU] has agreed to participate in the proposed tripartite talks in New Delhi on certain conditions. It has also announced suspension of the proposed 1,001-hour Assam bundh [strike] from Monday [21 August]. In a statement in Shillong the ABSU vice president, Mr (Pradeep Daimari), asked the Assam government to spell out the basis of the talks scheduled to be held on the 28th of this month. He demanded an end to alleged police atrocities and arrests. He also demanded the presence of the union home minister and the Assam chief minister at the talks.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the riot hit Mangaldoi and Khairabari areas of Darrang District has improved following tight security measures adopted by the administration. The army staged a flag march yesterday afternoon to defuse the tension in the affected areas. Police outposts have been created in the strategic and vulnerable areas. Army personnel are engaged in creating congenial atmosphere to enable the affected people to go back to their villages at the earliest.

AIR [All India Radio] Guwahati correspondent after visiting the affected areas of Mangaldoi subdivision reports that about 15,000 people, both Bodos and non-Bodos, in 30 villages have been affected following group clashes and large-scale arson. Most of the affected people have taken shelter in about 10 make-shift relief camps. Our correspondent understands that the people are keen to go back to their villages as early as possible to avail the last few days of the kharif [autumn] harvesting season.

Suspected Bodo miscreants last night shot dead Mr (Rajen Kilt), president of Darrang unit of Asom Gano Parishad of (Kuiripetha) village. Official sources from Tezpur told AIR Guwahati correspondent that Bodo miscreants also set on fire some houses of the village. The army staged a flag march in the affected areas. According to sources the situation is now under complete control.

Communist Party Leader Rules Out Opposition Unity

BK1708111589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Aug 89 p 1

[By staff correspondent]

[Text] CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary E.M.S. Namboodiripad has ruled out the possibility of all-in Opposition unity of the Left, Centrist parties and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] against the Congress in the coming election seven though the entire Opposition has acted unitedly in pulling out their MPs from the Lok Sabha and have given simultaneous calls for 'Save India Day' and 'Bharat bundh' [all-India strike] on August 9 and 30 respectively.

In an article in the latest issue of PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY, official organ of the party, the leader of CPI-M has said policy differences in the opposition preclude the formation of a broad Opposition front.

Countering the attack on the CPI-M by a section of the bourgeois Opposition and media commentators for its refusal to cooperate with the BJP and thereby "colluding with the Congress", Mr Namboodiripad explains that the political situation today is not the same as the 1977 scenario when the Janata Party emerged as the only opposition capable of replacing the Congress.

Today, there are three district political strands [as published] in the Opposition: the Left, the secular Opposition and the right communal Opposition represented by the BJP.

Mr Namboodiripad states that the need to fight communalism has become a political necessity in the present circumstances. A demarcation between the Left and the BJP is necessary if the secular-minded and democratic masses are to be rallied against the Rajiv Government.

On the other hand, if the secular-minded and democratic masses perceive that the Left and secular Opposition is weakening its resistance to the divisive and separatist activities of the BJP, then a big section of them are

bound to be attracted towards the Congress. This would be a net loss to the Left and secular Opposition in the country, Mr Namboodiripad warns.

Regarding the Save India Day and Bharat Bundh, the CPI-M leader says that the Left would endeavour to organise rallies and demonstrations with the National Front, provided the Front does not have the BJP as one of its partners for the campaigns. If the National Front insists on the BJP's participation, then the Left will organise its own programmes independently, he says.

The major policy similarities relate to the question of minorities, special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, on which the National Front and the Left parties hold similar views while the BJP's stand is diametrically opposite.

Moreover, on the issue of democratisation of Centre-State relations and demand for greater powers to the States, the National Front and the Left stand together. The BJP's position on the matter, is however, akin to that of the Congress, which is for greater concentration of power in the hands of the Centre.

Mr Namboodiripad points out that among the four Left parties' seven-point charter of demands, is the one for resistance to imperialist pressures on the Indian economy, curbing price rise and making work a fundamental right.

"The rest of the Opposition does not see the pressure of imperialism on the economy and polity of the country," Mr Namboodiripad says adding that the Left's demands also concern the working class, peasants, agricultural labourers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and women.

It is the Left-led mass organisations which are engaged in the task of mobilising the working people against the imperialist pressure and class policies of the Rajiv Gandhi Government while the bourgeois parties and politicians are busy preparing themselves for the forthcoming elections through knocking together electoral alliances, understandings and adjustments".

Mr Namboodiripad says that the Congress can be defeated only by integrating correct electoral tactics with well-organised mass actions.

Iran

Ayatollah Yazdi Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD1808110489 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Just two days after his appointment as the new head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi has rejected a request by a ministry to intervene on its behalf.

"I haven't started my job yet but just yesterday I had a call that a ministry has requested a public prosecutor's office to stop the action of an organization," Yazdi said.

"I said very simply, they had no right to write such a thing and the prosecutor's office should not accept because a minister is a minister (for his ministry).

"...If Later they asked why, I will take responsibility," Yazdi said without naming the ministry.

He was applaunded with cries of Allah-o Akbar (God is great) by worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran.

People and officials should carry out their public responsibilities efficiently and without unncessary delay, he said adding that the country's heart was beating "too fast or too slow" depending on the issue.

"We should all work in such a way that the country's heart beats properly," he said.

Government personnel in particular should not be reading newspapers or even the Koran while they should be doing the job they were being paid for with taxpayers money.

"I don't know (you tell me), is it more religiously correct for a government clerk to read even the Koran, or to do the job he has been assigned to?" he asked.

Yazdi was appointed the head of the judiciary on Tuesday by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Yazdi also called for the observance of piety, urging fear of God and not society.

"After 50 or 60 years, when are we going to start to learn piety?... Childhood and adolescence are a thing of the past. We have reached old age...and still we control ourselves with the pressures of society...that is we fear society.

"We should fear God, the creator. We must always have Him in mind...and then certainly we will have the rights of his creatures in mind."

The Ayatollah also expressed optimism that President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who officially began his term on Thursday would be able to solve administrative, economic and social issues.

Speaks on Judiciary, Lebanon

LD1808121589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Simultaneous with the mourning rites for the lord of the martyrs and leader of the world's freemen, His Holiness Husayn Ibn-'Ali, peace be upon him, Muslim compatriots throughout the country today held the politico-religious ceremonies of the Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, the people of Tehran held the political-religious Friday prayers under the leadership of Ayatollah Yazdi today, by being present at Tehran University and in adjacent streets.

In the prayer sermons, explaining the notion of judgment and the judge from the point of view of Islam and the Koran, the head of the judiciary said: As interpreted by the leader, judicial power serves as the pulse of the administration and of the overall situation of the country. If the judiciary is healthy, then it can drive all the governmental and popular organs toward health.

Referring to the grave responsibility the leader has vested in him, the head of the judiciary stressed the need for expediting the work of attending to people's affairs. He said: When one accepts the responsibility of a position, then one must perform that task in the best possible manner, for, the most deprived members of the society, living in the remotest parts of the country, have a share in the salaries which officials and employees of the establisments receive.

Therefore, the officials and employees of the establishments must arrive at work on time and attend to the affairs of the public in a careful and timely manner. They must perform their duties in this manner so that the pulse of the administration beats regularly and correctly. Everybody must perform his responsibility in the best possible way.

Referring to the president's swearing-in ceremonies, the head of the judiciary said: God willing, on account of the personality and position, as well as the grave responsibility which Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has accepted, and also because of the powers the Constitution has entrusted to the president, most of the country's difficulties will be solved. The enemies of the regime and the revolution, who used to entertain unfounded ideas, must know that the country's responsible authorities are able to administer the country in the best possible way, they will solve the difficulties with the help of the people, one after the other.

Continuing his second sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the joint meeting of the Palestinian and Lebanese Islamic and nationalist forces in Dasmascus, as well as the message of our country's president to this meeting. He said: In view of the totality of conditions, regional as well as international circumstances, and existing problems in the Middle East—especially the recent crimes of the Zionist regime—there is no way but unity, solidarity, and resistence in order to achieve the rights of the Muslims of Lebanon and Palestine. It is necessary for all groups and parties having Islamic or nationalist titles to eliminate the enemy through unity and solidarity in the first stage, then they can solve the differences among themselves in the next stage.

The head of the judiciary stressed: As our leader and our country's officials have said, the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) never has and never will condone hostage-taking, under any conditions. So long as the ugly acts of the Zionist regime, such as abduction of the struggling cleric Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, receive the support of global arrogance, Lebanon's internal crisis will not be solved.

At the end of his second sermon Ayatollah Yazdi said: Thanks to the decisive leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the IRI, the Muslims of the world have been re-awakened, they now believe that they can run their own affairs without having to rely on outsiders.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Hostages

LD1708202589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who heads a delegation visiting Iran, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and conferred with him this evening.

At this meeting Sahabzada Yaqub Khan conveyed the congratulations of the Pakistani president and prime minister to Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as our president. He said: I am very pleased to have the honor of attending the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the swearing-in ceremonies of Your Excellency's presidency. This is a sign of the deep alliance between the two Muslim and neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan.

He then referred to the peace efforts by the Islamic Republic in the Lebanon issue, Velayati's visit, and the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in resolving the Lebanon problem. [as heard] He said: Pakistan never wants to act as mediator in the hostage issue, and the West also knows this position. But we were asked to ask you for the release of the hostages.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked him for the messages from the Pakistani president and prime minister and stressed the deep solidarity between Iran and Pakistan. Referring to the recent issues in Lebanon and the recent clashes, he said: We are really touched; we believe that the bloodshed in Afghanistan and Lebanon is caused by those who are the real perpetrators, those who are outside those two countries. Our main policy is to try to stop the bloodshed in both countries, for the Muslim people of both countries to have the right to decide their own fate. Now we are prepared to cooperate with any country that is prepared to cooperate with us toward this goal.

Fortunately, as regards Afghanistan some useful steps have been taken, some discussions have taken place with some Afghan groups and factions, and things are going well. But Lebanon is more complicated than Afghanistan.

The president reiterated that we have constantly declared our stance regarding the United States through the mass media and interviews. He added: Both the Americans and our people understand our stance. We deem the U.S. actions very ugly. We believe that even when they speak about future friendship they are

speaking in a language that is not worth listening to. They still assume that they can speak in a bullying way and from the position of an independent country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked that as regards Lebanon the Americans are confusing the issues. He said: We condemn the act of hostage-taking and have constantly proclaimed that. But we are aware that those people who resort to such acts because they are destitute and helpless have no other way of defending themselves. As regards this issue, we would like to assist if possible. But the Americans, whenever this issue is reported, immediately connect it with the issue of negotiations and relations between the two countries.

The Western hostages, who were taken hostage in Lebanon, may rot there so that the United States can exploit this bridge [pol] for its aims. I have constantly declared that if the United States expects us to help in the Lebanese issue it should abandon this antagonistic manner which it has adopted toward us to induce us to help in resolving the issue.

Our country's president added: The issue of the Iranian assests in U.S. hands is completely separate. The United States should reply why it has frozen our assets. Mr Bush, who seems wiser than Mr Reagan, said recently: We do not want to adopt an antagonistic policy toward Iran. How are we expected to believe that, since we owe the United States nothing. We have many frozen assets in the United States—goods for which we paid 10-15 years ago, our money in U.S. banks, and the properties of the shah's family—which the United States guaranteed to return to us.

Concerning the downing of the Iran airbus and the massacre of innocent people, other than being indebted to us morally and financially, the United States owes us much more as a result of the destruction of our oil installations. In addition there has been its blackmailing interspersed with pressure at The Hague court, political incitement and economic harrassment in the world, direct participation in the war against us, and the incitement of its surrogates in the region against us. These are all factors of which our people and the world are well aware, but whenever the Lebanese issue is discussed the United States talks about relations with Iran.

How do you suppose a revolutionary Muslim, who has shown that he does not budge an inch from his ideals, can conduct a dialogue with someone who has treated him in such a manner before and after the revolution?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Even if only the humanitarian issues in Lebanon are raised then they have taken hostages from us too. The United States has more influence on the known kidnappers [Israel] than we have on kidnappers whom no one knows.

Our president added: I believe the main U.S. problem is that it has misled its own public and now it has problems in rectifying the mistakes. If they really have good intentions, it will take a long time before they show their good intentions in practice.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the obvious kidnapping by the Zionist regime. He said: We do not believe that Israel abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd without U.S. permission. We know that if the United States did not agree to this clumsy action, then it [Israel] could not hold him.

The Americans are clumsy in thinking that they can put pressure on the Muslim people of Lebanon. These are the kind of people who sit in a car full of explosives and bombs and blow up the car. These people are no longer afraid of prison and arrest. They have prepared themselves for martyrdom, and in order to highlight the issue of their oppression and their will they would welcome this kind of martyrdom-seeking actions.

The president stressed that the ugliest form of agressiveness toward a neighboring country is what the Zionist regime did, which the United States and the West approved by their silence. We believe if they want this issue to be resolved the main question of Lebanon, that of the Lebanese people's sovereignty over their land, must be resolved: that is the establishment of a government on the basis of the will of the Lebanese majority until these issues no longer remain.

Today no one is answerable in Lebanon, and this is a sin committed by the people who want to perpetuate the tribal privileges of the colonialist times. What should be realized is Western-propagated democracy that believes in the will of the majority.

Yaqub Khan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discuss Hostages

BK1808022689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Iranian President Mr 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said that Iran will assist in efforts for freeing of Western hostages in Lebanon only in the situation where the United States assures that now it holds no enmity toward Iran. Mr Rafsanjani said this in a statement made during the meeting with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Tehran. However, he dismissed the possibility of direct talks with the United States on the hostage issues.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also exchanged views with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest situation in Afghanistan. He emphasized the need to maintain high-level links between Iran and Pakistan to set up an Islamic and nonaligned government in Afghanistan.

Lebanese Leader Sha'ban Cited on UNSC Decision

LD1808031289 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'bun described the UN Security

Council [UNSC] session on the current situation in Lebanon as merely in defense of the U.S. and Zionist regime in the region.

He said the security council rarely holds a session to solve Palestine's problems. However, the decisions taken in those sessions have always been in favor of the Al-Quds occupying regime.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, from Tripoli, reports Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban in his today's statement expressed his lack of confidence of the Security Council's decision on the recent crisis and the internal war in Lebanon.

He further said we do not pin so much hope on the Security Council's decisions because it has not been a just and fair council and it is inefficient to resolve the differences existing among nations.

Majlis Deputy Says Bush 'Made' 'Mistake'

LD1808091189 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—The United States was wrong to think the Iranian leadership would compromise on Islamic and revolutionary principles and make a deal with Washington, an official said.

"The presidency is a means to achieve the values of Islam and the revolution," said Majlis deputy and head of the land distribution organization.

"If one day it becomes a tool to trample on these values and make compromise deals, it would become a worthless position," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohieddin Fazel Harandi. He was making a speech before the main sermon at Tehran's Friday prayers gathering.

Harandi said Iranian officials including leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had proven their revolutionary credentials long before the Islamic revolution.

"I will tell you Mr Bush: You have made a mistake. In the past ten years we only had one president who...made a deal with you and you saw how he fled...because he feared the people's (wrath)."

Harandi was referring to the 1981 escape of Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the Islamic republic's first president after he was ousted by the Majlis for political incompetence.

After fleeing to France secret documents ceased [as received] from the American Embassy in Tehran were published indicating Bani-Sadr had become an important source of information for an undercover U.S. intelligence agent.

Harandi said the U.S., ever since the death of Imam Khomeyni in June, was "weighing" Iranian officials and "trying to create questions in the (people's) minds" about them.

Khomeyni Threatens To 'Kick' U.S. Out of Mideast

LD1708230489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Excerpts] A large group of martyrs' children, who have gained top grades in their studies, accompanied by Mr Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the supervisor of the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj 'Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, addressing the martyrs' children, said: The world is waiting to see how the responsible authorities of the system will move today, after the imam. They are wondering whether such problems as economic difficulties would make them deviate from the imam's path and the main route of the revolution.

Today, the United States thinks that since the imam is no longer among us it can accuse the responsible authorities of having links with it, and the U.S. President says: We welcome this link—whereas I am telling you that your responsible authorities will slap America on the mouth and they will kick [tard] America out of the Middle East. The U.S. President says: We are prepared to solve the issue of the hostages with Iran on certain conditions—as if we are seeking to meet him and he is setting preconditions for us. [passage omitted]

Iranian Toilers Radio Views Leadership Split

LD1408221189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Lately, the differences and disputes within the ruling clique over the formation of the future cabinet of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the hostage issue in Lebanon has become more critical than ever. On the one hand, Rafsanjani is intensely preoccupied with forming a cabinet which will advance the policy line of the leader-president gang within the government. On the other, he is trying, with the help of the Foreign Ministry and his hirelings in Lebanon and utilizing all the experience he has gained in secret diplomatic dealings through Pakistan and other intermediaries, to stamp his own opportunistic positions on the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy.

Meanwhile, the factor which, in the course of the past few days, has contributed to an intensification of the squabbles between ruling factions, is the predictable disappointment of the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i gang in the result of their elections and referendum due to the boycott of this charade. This disappointment increased and made more apparent the differences among these gangs. The leaders of rival gangs demonstrated their varying reactions in the face of the scandalous results of the elections and referendum. Under circumstances when, in spite of all the rigging and fraud in the election, the registered percentage of those who participated did not reach even 50 percent of those eligible, Rafsanjani

had the cheek to talk about the 'extensive' participation of the people in the elections and the referendum. However, Mohtashemi, the regime's interior minister, admitted to some of the realities involved, rejected the fantasy of 'extensive' participation, and said: At least 30 percent of those eligible to vote did not participate and in some constituencies illegal incidents took place.

The positionings of the leaders of the ruling factions against each other—in connection with the hostage crisis in Lebanon, too—has been more blatant and critical in the past few days. Mohtashemi, taking note of the disgraceful secret wheelings and dealings of Rafsanjani in the Irangate affair, exposed the stands adopted by Rafsanjani and his deeds concerning the issue of hostages in Lebanon. And Rafsanjani's gang, too, took the opportunity provided by the publication in THE NEW YORK TIMES of the news of the discovery of U.S. spy-networks in Iran to embark on a renewed wave of opportunistic propaganda against the United States so as to cover the disgraceful undercover dealings with the United States and thus neutralize the propaganda from his rivals.

The truth is that Rafsanjani—essentially to attract the United States' attention—has said that he is ready to help solve the hostage problem in Lebanon. Bearing in mind, however, the anti-American feelings of the people and calculating the reactions and extreme sensitivity which exists among the regime's forces toward a repeat of past scandals, Rafsanjani has been forced to move with even greater secrecy and fragility than ever before—to the extent that this very cautious approach has even annoyed the U.S. ruling circles. White House circles have said: The Iranian regime, because of domestic policy, wants to hide its secret talks with the United States, whereas the United States wants to have an open agenda. The U.S. Administration, however, so that it may have confidence in the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i gang, is trying to get more guarantees from them. Of course, up to now, some efforts have been made to this effect by the leader-president's gang. In recent days the braggings of the Hizballah group of Lebanon concerning the fate of the hostages have lessened, and even Shaykh Fadhlallah, leader of the Hizballah in Lebanon, has expressed his support for a quick release of the hostages and has declared that he is ready to assist in solving this problem.

However, just as we mentioned, the solving of the hostage problem in Lebanon—in as far as it reflects the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran—is not a problem which depends solely on the will of Rafsanjani and his gang. Rather, more than anything else, it depends on the fate of the power-struggle within the ruling clique of the akhund's [somewhat derogatory term for turbaned clergy] regime; a power-struggle which right now is busy determining the future cabinet of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i group, by adopting a policy of purging and gradually eliminating its rivals and absorbing or rendering ineffective others, is trying to cover-up the regime's internal crisis and contradictions so as to reach a stage enabling them to monopolize power unchallenged.

Evidence shows that purges are directed toward officials of influential organs, such as the Interior Ministry, more than others. The policy of absorbing or rendering ineffective other officials is in progress. The leaders of this gang have warned their rivals that they are determined to achieve their monopolistic goals. Khamene'i, in the meeting he had with Musavi when the latter and his cabinet members were bidding farewell, said: We shall not allow the future to move against the will of Islam—meaning the will of the leader- president gang. Yet, at the same time, this latter bunch are worried lest the purges and dismissals lead these rivals to join the ranks of the opposition.

The remarks made by Akhund Khamene'i, in this connection, are worthy of note. In this very same meeting he reminded us, with expressions of hope, that a change of status will not alter the principle of cooperation—the policy of service is a continuous one and wherever we are, it is not conceivable for us to forsake the overall system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This reflects the deep anxiety and fear that the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i group feels toward their influential rivals being turned out of the framework of the ruling machinery, their refusal to cooperate within the framework of the regime, and their transformation into an opposition against the ruling machinery.

IAEA Secretary General on Nuclear Energy

NC1208085489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1415 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Interview with by Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to an unidentified correspondent of the Science Group of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his recent trip to Iran—recorded in English with superimposed Persian translation]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [Passage omitted] Our guest is Mr Hans Blix who is the secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. It is a unique opportunity for us to interview him during a friendly meeting.

Mr Hans Blix, thank you very much for participating in this scientific program. I would like to ask some friendly questions about your trip to our country, about your mission, and about your proposals for Iran's future in the field of energy. I welcome you to Iran, and ask my first question on your mission.

[Blix] The IAEA is an inter-governmental organization with 150 member countries, like the United Nations or FAO. The Iranian Government invited me to discuss with your officials the assistances and services that this agency can extend to your country in the field of atomic

energy and its peaceful use, in industry, agriculture, and medicine, and in setting up nuclear power plants.

[Announcer] When referring to developing countries, we are speaking primarily about the peaceful use of atomic energy. Talking about Iran especially, what is in mind is the use of nuclear energy for producing electricity. When a country has immense oil resources, do you think it is to its benefit to use nuclear power in terms of producing energy?

[Blix] Yes. I think so. At some point, at any rate, oil and its resources will be finished. This applies to gas as well. Of course, we hope that will be a long time from now. Moreover, we know that we can use both oil and gas for purposes other than consumption. For example, they can be used in the petrochemical industries where the molecules of oil are extremely valuable. It is a shame that when uranium can be used to produce electricity to use these valuable molecules instead, because uranium, contrary to oil, can be used only for the production of energy.

Of course, today the world relies mainly on fossil fuel such as gas, oil, and coal; and this situation will continue for years to come. For a country like Iran, it is natural for these resources to be used. However, I think that the creation of possibilities for using nuclear energy in Iran is logical.

[Announcer] What is your opinion of Iran's current position in the use of nuclear energy? In other words, do you consider the situation in Iran favorable for moving toward the creation of possibilities to produce nuclear energy?

[Blix] Your nuclear power programs were relatively ambitious. In addition to the Bushehr Power Plant, there were installations in other parts of your country. Moreover, forecasts were made on the industrial use of nuclear power. Then the revolution came and then the war. Now you have the Bushehr Nuclear Plant installations on which you have spent a great deal. These installations are ready construction-wise, that is as far as concrete and construction framework. However, they are not completed as far as installations and equipment are concerned. Much force has been used to build them and it is a pity that you have not continued them and completed them. Of course, the damages inflicted during the war, the taxes, economic expenditures, and the time required for their completion by the government should be calculated and the necessary decisions made so that this building can become the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant.

[Announcer] In view of the visit you paid to the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO], how do you assess the Iranian experts as far as the recommencement of the nuclear installations for energy production are concerned, and do you think that they have the necessary scientific and expertise capabilities?

[Blix] Our impression is that the scientific level in Iran is high. You have been working in this field for a long time. You have capable scientists, experts, and technicians. I inspected your laboratories in Tehran today. I gained much information on these installations and tests. Your activities are of a high standard. [Passage omitted]

For more rapid results, the government, too, should undertake certain things. We have seen many examples. Some governments which wanted to set up installations for the use of nuclear energy faced problems during the initial years, and these led to high costs. Therefore, if a government decides to take a step in the nuclear field, it should be prepared to undertake some commitments. These commitments concern management, prevention, and control, and of course these should be coordinated through extensive industrial plannings.

[Announcer] You referred to problems such as the war which delayed the nuclear activities in Iran. Can a country like Iran, in view of the problems that it is facing, be able to provide its electricity through nuclear power?

[Blix] I should say that we do not tell member countries what they should do. The governments themselves decide. If you ask me if we have experts, researchers, and other means to help, I can say yes and of a high standard, too. If you ask me if it is economically wise for this step to be taken, I think that your government should answer and not I. The construction of a nuclear power plant is very expensive, and much more expensive than the construction of a power plant that operates on coal, gas, or oil. On the other hand, a nuclear power plant is less expensive in the long run because its fuel—uranium—is economical and much cheaper than gas, coal, and oil. [Passage omitted]

A point that I should emphasize is that the main reason I support nuclear fuel is for environmental purposes. In my country, Sweden, we have seen the destruction of thousands of lakes because of acid rain resulting from excessive coal and oil burned in European countries and in Sweden. Nuclear fuel does not produce any sulphate dioxide or nitrogen oxide and all its waste can be controlled. This is why I prefer nuclear fuel to all other fuels. [Passage omitted]

[Announcer] You recall the news some years ago on the Chernobyl incident and on its safety and its wastes. What is your opinion on this?

[Blix] I think that the waste issue is not a big problem. We have very advanced technology on dumping nuclear waste outside the biosphere even for the next thousand years. As for the safety issue, I should say that any type of power-producing resource has its own risks. If you use water to produce electricity, there is the risk of the dam bursting and we have seen such incidents where thousands of people died. Recently there was a gas leak in a power plant in the Soviet Union which led to an explosion on two trains where 600 people were killed. About a year ago, an oil platform sunk, killing 150 experts,

engineers, and researchers. Of course, Chernobyl was the most severe incident in the nuclear field and 31 people were killed. I do not want to say that nuclear power is without risks, but I say that if you want electricity, you should look for ways to ensure the fuel resources for it. And any resource you choose to ensure electricity will have its own risks. In my view, nuclear power has fewer risks compared to other resources for the production of energy. If a comparison takes place between all the deaths and damages of all the incidents that have taken place, then this point will be further clarified.

[Announcer] What percentage of today's power plants are using nuclear energy?

[Blix] Today 17 percent of the world's electricity is produced by nuclear energy, about 20 percent by water resources, and the remainder by coal, gas, and oil.

[Announcer] Still, in view of these figures and facts, do you believe that the risks of nuclear energy are fewer?

[Blix] Yes, I certainly think that the risks in using nuclear energy are within a logical limit. This, of course, does not mean that we can have peace of mind. We should pay more attention to the issue of safety more and more each day. This is something that has always applied whenever a new technology has been introduced, and I should say that the issue of safety in nuclear energy has made spectacular progress. [Passage omitted]

[Announcer] But I am still not convinced about nuclear waste. The reports appearing in the press and on the radios all speak of the disputes that have started on the issue of nuclear waste. Do you think that we can have a technology that can protect ourselves from nuclear waste?

[Blix] Yes certainly. I would even say that the solutions to and technologies on nuclear safety have progressed very much and more results have been achieved on this in comparison with fossil fuel. I will tell you how it is done. Last year the total number of nuclear power generators throughout the world produced about 7,000 tonnes of nuclear waste. This waste is to a great extent radioactive and great precision should be taken to control this. This waste is put in water tanks for many years in order to reduce its radiation and radioactivity. Another solution is to place nuclear waste in copper capsules and bury them deep inside the earth in areas that have been geologically stable for thousands of years and which will remain stable forever. Another solution is to find a way to reduce nuclear waste. At any rate, whichever solution is picked will be the techniques and methods used today and which do not cause concern among those who use this kind of energy resource.

[Announcer] Mr Blix, when people speak of nuclear power, they confuse its meaning with the atomic bomb. Can you please clarify the relationship that nuclear power has with the atomic bomb?

[Blix] Yes, certainly. Of course the basis of nuclear science is the same for nuclear power and the nuclear bomb. But a noteworthy point is that all the governments that have a nuclear bomb intially manufactured the nuclear bombs and then sought to set up nuclear power stations. Now, if you wish, you can either go for the nuclear bombs or for nuclear power. It is a question of your will.

[Announcer] Therefore, there is a difference in the technology of each one of these.

[Blix] Yes, their technologies are completely different. However, the nuclear science in both is the same.

[Announcer] Therefore, the mere fact of having a nuclear power plant does not necessarily mean having a nuclear bomb.

[Blix] No, on the contrary, the organization that I represent has the duty to monitor the peaceful use of nuclear power in its member countries and it tries to prevent any military use of nuclear power. We send our inspectors to all the countries that have promised to use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes in order to confirm that they are doing so.

[Announcer] And are you sure that the information that governments give you on their activities are true?

[Blix] We are confident that all the countries that have promised not to use nuclear energy for military purposes have remained faithful to their promise and that their installations have been set up only for the purposes of electricity and industry. Of course some countries have refused to accept our representatives and inspectors. But I cannot name those countries here.

[Announcer] Do your inspectors go to military areas and to weapons' factories?

[Blix] No. They do not go to weapons' factories in five countries that manufacture weapons in the world—that is, the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China. Of course they have access to their peaceful installations, but not to their military centers.

[Announcer] Then what is the purpose of your organization?

[Blix] The first purpose is our insistence that member countries make peaceful use of nuclear energy. Some examples are in the field of nuclear medicine, the use of nuclear energy in agriculture such as the improvement of seeds, the use of nuclear energy in industries such as the polymer industries and, finally, in the field of electricity production. Also, we help interested countries to make use of nuclear energy facilities and to help their industries to flourish. Meanwhile, we place safety standards at their disposal. Moreover, through continuous inspections, we prevent the idea of setting up nuclear installations for military purposes.

[Announcer] My last question is a personal question. Are you a nuclear scientist?

[Blix] No, I am a lawyer.

[Announcer] Then why are you in this business?

[Blix] It is a peculiar story. As a student, immediately after World War II, I wanted to work to help build a better world. Therefore, I started studying international law because I think that the world needs more law and less violence. Therefore, I studied for years and participated in disarmament activities. And as I said before, since nuclear energy does not pollute the environment and create acid rain, I started my activities in this field in my country, Sweden. [Passage omitted]

[Announcer] What are the limits of your organization's activities? Can you prevent illegal activities?

[Blix] No. We have neither a police force, nor an army. But we have inspectors who travel throughout the world and report on violations to the world through the mass media. You, who work in the mass media, know the power of telecommunications. This is something we can do and something that causes reactions.

[Announcer] Again, my final question, and of course this is the second time I am asking the final question. At any rate, what is your forecast on developing countries, and especially Iran, and the future that they have in nuclear energy? Will Iran basically have a future in nuclear energy?

[Blix] Yes, I think so. The only question is when you start and when you want to start. I think that you need more programs in the field of nuclear energy. When the information coming from industrial countries on nuclear energy is little, definitely the information that the developing countries will have on nuclear energy will also be little. We are acquainted with water energy, oil energy, and wind energy and are used to these. But people do not know anything about radiation, even though there is sun radiation and you see it every day, especially here in Tehran, where its radiation is strong. Nevertheless, people do not know about it. They know about X-ray which is radiated at their body only in name. The same applies to nuclear energy which is a mystery to many. We should remove the negative thoughts that exist on this. We should be careful of x-rays and even sun radiation. However, ill thoughts are something else. We should become acquainted with all these energies and harness them. Developing countries should only use nuclear energy for their needs and not for non-peaceful purposes.

[Announcer] I thank you very much for having given us some of your time and for having participated in our program.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Yaqub Khan's Syria Visit, Hostages

BK1708160989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto will lead the Pakistani delegation at the nonaligned summit conference beginning in Belgrade from 4 September. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad that Pakistan will take an active part in the summit discussions on important issues, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, disarmament, and the international economic order. The nonaligned summit will be preceded by a foreign ministers' conference on 1 September. A meeting of senior officials of the Nonaligned Movement will take place on 31 August.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto will also lead the Pakistani delegation at the UN General Assembly session that is expected to be held from 19 September.

About Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit to Iran, the spokesman said he will discuss issues of mutual interest and regional matters, including Afghanistan, with his Iranian counterpart.

When the spokesman was asked about whether the foreign minister's visit to Iran is connected with the issue of hostages in Lebanon, he said that this is a humanitarian issue; if Pakistan can help in any way, it will not hesitate to do so. However, he said, Pakistan has not been requested by anyone thus far to play the role of a mediator in the hostage issue.

The spokesman said the foreign minister's visit to Syria is basically aimed at promoting bilateral ties and is not directly related to the hostage issue.

About the meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Ministerial Council, the spokesman said efforts are under way to convene the meeting. These efforts are expected to be successful, he added.

Bhutto Cancels Travel Due to 'Preoccupations'

BK1808011089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2129 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has cancelled plans to travel abroad because of "preoccupations" at home, a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto has dropped plans to visit the member states of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation this month, press reports said.

In addition, she will not be able to attend two international meetings because of her "preoccupations and engagements at home," the spokesman said.

He announced that Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the senior minister and mother of the prime minister, would lead the Pakistani delegation at the non-aligned summit in Belgrade September 5-7.

Begum Bhutto will also lead the country's delegation to the U.N. General Assembly session scheduled to open in New York in November, he told reporters.

When asked if Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's current visit to Teheran and Damascus included talks on the hostages in Lebanon, the spokesman said: "Pakistan is not engaged in any mediatory role at the moment."

But he said Islamabad could provide a channel of communication for this purpose if asked.

Ziaul Haq's 1st Death Anniversary Observed 17 Aug

BK1708143289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The first death anniversary of the late General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was observed today. A Koran recitation ceremony was held at his mausoleum near the Shah Faisal Mosque [in Islamabad]. Approximately 50,000-70,000 people present on the occasion took part in a mass prayer. These people had arrived in Islamabad in hired buses under the leadership of prominent personalities associated with the martial law regime. Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, and family members of the late general were present on the occasion.

'Tens of Thousands' Pay Homage

BK1708123689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 17 Aug 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of people flocked to the Faisal Mosque here Thursday to pay homage to General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, Pakistan's former president who died a year ago in a mysterious plane crash.

The observance, backed by opposition parties, featured a religious ceremony at 3:51 p.m. (1051 GMT), the exact time at which the plane carrying Gen. Ziaul Haq and 30 other people crashed soon after takeoff from the Bahawalpur Airport in central Pakistan last August 17. By 2:00 p.m., tens of thousands of people had already gathered outside the mosque, eye-witnesses said.

Hundreds of buses converged toward the site where Gen. Ziaul Haq is buried from several different Pakistani cities as an Army helicopter circled overhead. Organizers said hundreds of thousands were in attendance.

Hundreds of police officers and members of the Frontier Constabulary, a paramilitary force, were deployed in nearby streets and in embassies and government buildings.

Demonstrators shouted pro-Ziaul Haq slogans such as "a true Muslim" and "a man of truth," as well as slogans against the family of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whom they branded "assassins," as loudspeakers blared nationalist songs and verses of the Koran. Many carried Pakistani flags or portraits of Ms. Bhutto's chief rival, Nawaz Sharif, the leading figure in the opposition coalition, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

At mid-day, several hundred pilgrims, reciting prayers, were gathered around the mausoleum of Gen. Ziaul Haq, who ruled the country for 11 years. Several were seen throwing flower petals at the tomb.

Mr. Sharif, chief minister of Punjab Province, made hundreds of public buses available for the occasion, which he hoped to use as a show of the strength of the opposition to the Bhutto government.

The government had authorized the ceremony but warned against politicization of the event.

Gen. Zia's eldest son, Ijaz, 37, who was to preside over the ceremony, for his part vowed: "We shall not allow this occasion to be politicized," adding that there would be no political speeches.

Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan had warned of an IJI show of force and advised against disturbing the peace in the capital.

Activists of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have demanded that the anniversary be observed as a "day of deliverance" from dictatorial rule.

PPP flags and portraits of Ms. Bhutto's father, who was ousted by Gen. Ziaul Haq in July 1977 and hanged two years later, have been displayed at thoroughfares here and roads leading to the Faisal Mosque.

Supporters of Gen. Ziaul Haq, billing the religious ceremony as honoring the "martyr Ziaul Haq," countered with handbills and posters bearing his portrait. In some places, pro-Ziaul Haq streamers and banners have been hung alongside PPP flags and the portraits of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Ms. Bhutto's father.

Mr. Ijaz Zia has accused Ms. Bhutto, as well as the U.S. Government, of covering up the truth about his father's death, which occurred after Gen. Ziaul Haq went to Bahawalpur to attend a presentation ceremony of U.S.-made M-1 tanks. A U.S.-Pakistani team investigating the crash concluded it "most probably" resulted from a "sophisticated act of sabotage," but named no suspects.

Among the victims in the downed presidential C-130 transport plane was U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel, the U.S. military attache and 12 senior Pakistani military officers, including General Akhtar Abdul Rahman, regarded at the time as a possible successor to Gen. Ziaul Haq. Several protestors Thursday were carrying portraits of Gen. Rahman.

Details on Memorial Ceremony

BK1808003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1739 GMT 17 Aug 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Aug 17 (AFP)—More than 150,000 people thronged the Grand Mosque here Thursday to pay homage to Mohammed Ziaul Haq as

the opposition turned the first anniversary of the former president's death into a show of force against the Bhutto Government.

Immediately after the religious ceremony, the main opposition leader and chief minister of Punjab Province, Nawaz Sharif, described the gathering as "vote of no-confidence" against the government and a "referendum" in favour of his Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Flanked by General Ziaul Haq's sons Ijaz and Anwar, Mr. Sharif told a news conference the crowd showed that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had "exhausted her mandate" after eight months in power.

Hundreds of buses hired by opposition leaders as well as private cars and vans brought in tens of thousands of people from all over the country, including Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sind and North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan.

People from the opposition-led province of Punjab dominated the crowd massed at Faisal Mosque, the country's biggest where General Ziaul Haq is buried.

Official television said 50,000 to 70,000 people attended the ceremony while organisers claimed hundreds of thousands were there. [passage omitted]

Afghan refugees, most of whom are strong supporters of Gen. Ziaul Haq, were confined to their camps on the anniversary, and press reports said several busloads of refugees were turned back at the provincial border with Punjab.

People waving large portraits of the late president bearing the inscription "Martyr of the Afghan Cause" clung to the roofs of buses at daybreak as villagers arrived in horse-drawn carts and on bicycles and motorbikes, witnesses said.

At Gen. Ziaul Haq's small tomb on the lush lawns of Faisal Mosque, the crowd shouted: "Ziaul Haq's name will never be buried." They threw red rose petals and laid floral wreaths and recited from the Koran as loudspeakers blared hymns in praise of God and the Prophet Muhammad.

The crowd waited for several hours in the scorching heat before giving a tumultuous welcome to the late general's two sons and the Punjab chief minister, who responded by saluting the crowd.

The ceremony was to have coincided with the exact time of the crash of the presidential C-130 transport plane at 3:51 p.m. (1051 GMT), but was delayed as processions took several hours to cover the 15 kilometers from Gen. Ziaul Haq's official residence, Army House, to his grave.

In a 15-minute ceremony of "Fetha Khawani" (prayers for the dead), the imam of Lahore's Royal Mosque, Abdul Qadeer Azad, said in prayer: "O God, we know it is because of thine anger that a woman's rule has been imposed upon us," referring to Ms. Bhutto's government. The authorities had warned against political speeches at the gathering. However, the fiery imam called the late president an ardent supporter of the Afghan war and said, "the walls of this mosque are visibly crying that 1.5 million Afghans (who have died in fighting for Islamic rule) are being betrayed."

He also prayed for God's help in foiling a "conspiracy" of Indian domination of Pakistan, the freedom of Palestine and the liberation of Kashmir from Indian occupation.

After the prayers, the sons of Gen. Ziaul Haq, military generals and Mr. Sharif laid wreaths at the grave among portraits of the late leader and IJI flags.

(In New Delhi, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported several disturbances Thursday in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, where Muslim militants had called a general strike to mark the Zia death anniversary.

(Two civilians were injured in crossfire when Muslim militants exchanged gunfire with security forces in Srinagar's New Fatehkadal area, PTI quoted a government official as saying.

(In another incident, PTI said an unspecified number of Muslim militants commandeered a bus at gunpoint, ordered the passengers out and blew the bus up near the Kannihama area, a Srinagar suburb. No casualties were reported.

(Militants set off firecrackers in Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Pakistan's independence day Monday, but called a two-day general strike to protest India's independence anniversary Tuesday.

(PTI said the strike had brought transport to a near halt and that shops and businesses were closed for the third day in succession in Srinagar.

(Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state, where Muslim militants, who New Delhi says are backed by neighboring Pakistan, have stepped up their secessionist campaign. Pakistan has denied the charge.)

Sri Lanka

24 IPKF Members Killed in LTTE Attack

BK1708152089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 24 PKF [Peacekeeping Force] personnel have been killed in an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack.

A spokesman of the Indian High Commission said in Colombo this evening that a group of LTTE men attacked a peacekeeping force outpost in Mannar Town guarding the civil hospital last night after taking refuge inside the hospital premises. The LTTE men used RPG's [rocket propelled grenades] and mortars from inside the

hospital to attack the PKF. The PKF personnel did not fire back as 89 patients were warded in the hospital. As a result, 24 soldiers were killed. Operations to flush out the militants are continuing.

Commenting on the incident, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that the tactics adopted by the LTTE clearly shows their desperation to use civilians as human shields to demoralize the people living in the area and to bring the peacekeeping force into disrepute. By doing so the LTTE also wanted to jeopardize the current talks between New Delhi and Colombo.

Meanwhile, President Premadasa's special envoy, Mr Bradman Weerakoon, left New Delhi for Colombo today after 2 days of talks with the Indian leaders. According to an External Affairs Ministry spokesman, the talks were aimed at clarifying and refining the proposals which emerged during the Sri Lankan delegation's visit to New Delhi led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, in the first week of this month.

Colombo Court Orders Arrest of EPRLF Leader

BK1808060489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP)—A Colombo court has issued a warrant for the arrest of the leader of a former Tamil rebel group now in power in the island's North-Eastern Province.

High Court Judge Ameer Ismail, who issued the warrant against the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) General Secretary K. Padmanabha Thursday, ordered the senior police officer of the province to execute it.

The warrant was in connection with a three-year-old case in which Mr. Padmanabha and 23 others, mostly Sinhalese intellectuals who supported a Tamil seperatist campaign, had been accused of conspiracy to overthrow the legally constituted government.

The others were discharged after the government dropped the case against them following the signing of a July 1987 peace agreement between India and Sri Lanka which sought to end Tamil seperatism in the island.

They had to give written undertakings, renouncing violence and dissociating themselves from the activites of proscribed parties, before they were discharged.

Mr. Padmanabha, a Tamil, had refused to appear before the court, though notice was issued on him over a year ago.

The EPRLF had accepted the 1987 peace agreement and successfully contested the provincial council election last year.

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